

The Baptist Record

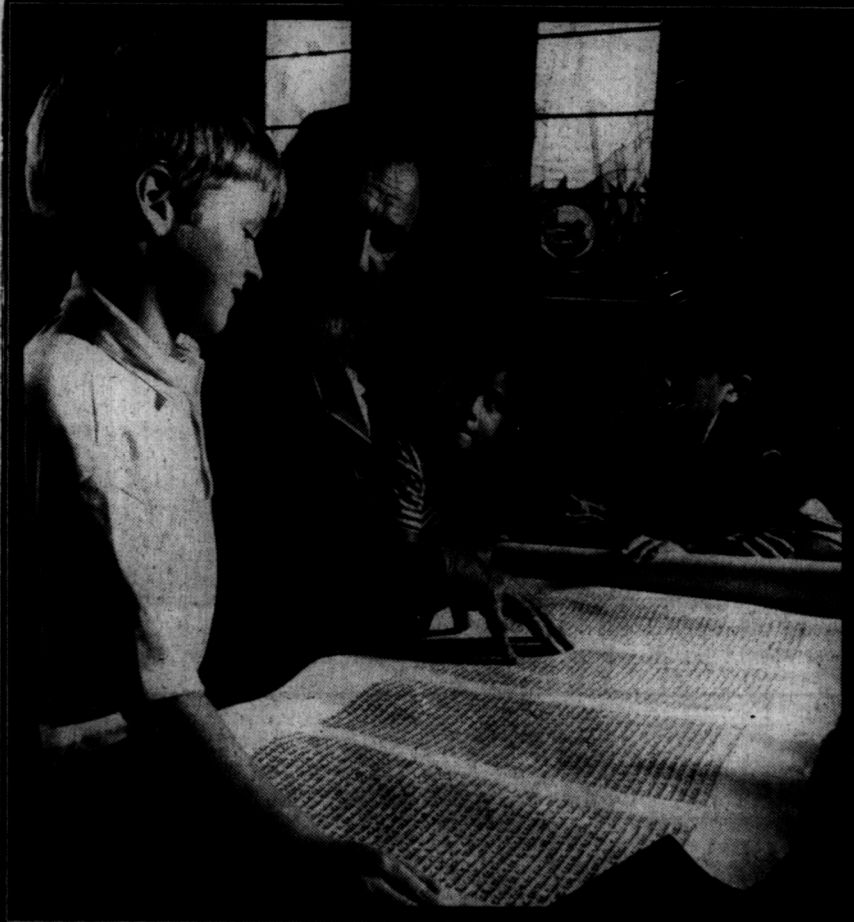
JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 7, 1991

Published Since 1877

'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?'

(John 1:16, RSV)



Observe Race Relations Sunday
February 10, 1991

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention

Texas man gives cars to missionaries on furlough

By Toby Druin

Harvey Kneisel looks like the kind of man from whom you would buy a used car.

The catch is that though Kneisel is in the used car business, he isn't selling them. He gives them away — to Southern Baptist missionaries on furlough.

Kneisel is minister of missions at First Church, Houston, where he oversees the work of five mission centers and 23 missions.

But he also heads the work of the Macedonian Call Foundation, which he founded a decade ago to provide transportation for Southern Baptist missionaries on furlough.

Kneisel and his wife were missionaries to Guyana from 1963-67 and to India and the Philippines, 1982-86, and he knew first-hand the difficulties a missionary faces in trying to secure dependable transportation at low cost while home on furlough.

Often it meant having to buy a used car and then losing the investment when they went back to the mission field.

"Missionaries are on reduced income, anyway, when they are on furlough," Kneisel said, "and while in the States they are trying to outfit themselves for the next three or four years on their field. They can't afford to lose what they put into a car."

So Kneisel established the Macedo-

nian Call Foundation, a nonprofit organization, that could receive used but still usable automobiles from concerned Baptists — or anyone else — and provide them for missionaries.

The person providing the automobile is given credit for the gift, according to the book value of the car, and can charge it off as a contribution.

The first car, a 1969 Buick, was given by a Conroe layman, who also gave \$10,000 to get the organization started, Kneisel said. A family of doctors in Arkansas has given the foundation five cars, including a 1987 BMW with only 11,000 miles on it, but Kneisel noted some missionaries are a "little uncomfortable" driving a new BMW.

One, however, was glad to get a Lincoln Town Car. The missionary had five children.

The foundation also has been given a 1965 Cadillac limousine. When it came, Kneisel said, he wondered how they could use it. "But the Lord doesn't have accidents, only incidents," he noted, and it has been used to bring people to church and three days a week is used to bring bread for the needy.

The "fleet" has included hundreds of cars over the years and now has some 25 in active use. Many more are needed, Kneisel said.

"We have more and more requests

every month," he said. "Last June and July we had 21 missionaries who wanted cars, but we were unable to fill all the requests."

Kneisel stays in touch with the Foreign Mission Board regarding furlough schedules and sends a newsletter regarding the automobiles to every SBC mission field. Many missionaries are coming home more often on shorter furloughs, he noted, and the need for more cars is growing.

"I feel there are enough Southern Baptists to provide enough cars for all missionaries on furlough, if they just knew the need and how much it means to them," he said.

Kneisel asks only that a car be usable, that it be "good transportation" or "drives good."

The only responsibility a missionary has is to pick up the car in Houston, keep it insured, repair it as is needed while it is in use, and return it to Houston when the furlough is over.

Persons with automobiles they would like to give to the foundation can telephone Kneisel at (713) 957-5860 or write to him at First Baptist Church, 7401 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77024-2199.

Druin is associate editor, Baptist Standard, Texas.

HIS NAME WAS JAYSON: A TRUE LOVE STORY

By Rick Jones

Jayson came to Greenville, Miss., from Florida. He came here to die.

My wife, Pat, and I have a ministry out of our church, Calvary Baptist, to the women who are incarcerated in the Greenville City Jail. We go to the jail each Thursday night to teach them from the Bible; about how much God loves them. As God leads us, we also work with their family members and others.

About six months ago, one of the women asked us to visit her 27-year-old brother in the local hospital. She told us that he had cancer and that he was dying.

We went to the hospital the next evening, which was Friday. We were told that Jayson had left the hospital in a state of depression, but that he was now back in the emergency room with a very high temperature. We could not see him that night, but as we were leaving I left a tract with a little note written on it. The note said, "Jayson, we love you and would like to visit with you." On the bottom we put

our phone number and names.

The phone rang at about 7 a.m. Saturday. It was Jayson asking us to come visit him. We told him that we would see him later in the day.

As Pat and I drove to the hospital, we prayed that God would give us words to comfort Jayson. As usual, God answered.

After we introduced ourselves, Jayson immediately told us that he was an AIDS victim. After he blurted out that information, he paused momentarily, looking back and forth at Pat and me. I knew that he was expecting rejection from these two white people. When he wasn't rejected as expected, Jayson relaxed and began to talk more freely. He never volunteered how he had contracted AIDS and we never asked, because it didn't make any difference. Here was a human being with a fatal disease, and he needed loving friends. That's all that really mattered.

Jayson told us that he was living with an elderly aunt and that she also had responsibility for two

small children living in the household. He told us that his aunt did not have an automobile, had very little money, and was limited in her ability to take care of necessary business outside the home.

Jayson was to be sent home the next day, but he declined our offer of a ride saying that he had transportation arranged. He did tell us he wanted to attend Sunday School and church with us next Sunday and would like a ride.

Before leaving Jayson that day, we wrote down his aunt's address and phone number. We also prayed with him before leaving, and he seemed to feel better when we left.

Two days later, I visited Jayson in his aunt's home. He was able to get around but he surely didn't feel well. He had contracted cancer because of the AIDS and Pat and I could see that he needed a place of quiet. Children are going to be children, and Jayson was becoming weaker as time progressed.

I talked it over with our pastor

and he assured me that Jayson was welcome in our church. He also agreed that our church would help in any way possible to minister to Jayson's needs.

Sunday morning, Jayson attended Sunday School and church with Pat and me. Afterward we brought him home with us to eat Sunday dinner.

Several weeks later Jayson was able to accept Jesus Christ into his heart. He was baptized by our pastor shortly thereafter and became a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Greenville. Our church praised God for this.

Our church helped Jayson move into a small apartment where he could live in quiet, air-conditioned comfort.

Church members provided transportation to and from church and ran any necessary errands. Jayson attended church up to the point where he could hardly move. His body was growing weaker, but his heart was strong for God.

The day came when I realized

that Jayson could no longer care for himself and though my heart was heavy at the thought, I told him that I felt he needed to be where he could get 24-hour care. He had already reached that conclusion. Dr. Bowman, Jayson's oncologist, was able to secure Jayson's acceptance to a half-way house for terminally ill patients in Jackson. He was there a month.

Jayson died on New Year's Eve, 1990, in Jackson, but he was brought back to Greenville for his funeral. Our pastor, Dwight Fortenberry, a loving godly man, preached a beautiful funeral.

This is a story of how the love of Jesus was able to unite a young black man with AIDS to an all-white Mississippi Baptist congregation. You see, Christ can cross all barriers if we but allow his Spirit to teach us. Jesus Christ really is the answer to all the hate, prejudice, and bigotry in this world. So long, Jayson, I'll see you soon.

I love you.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Sweet land of liberty

It was not a good day. Rain and fog created an illusion of some ghastly event. The citizens began to gather early at the National Guard Armory. The population of the town is 2,000 and those present vowed all 2,000 were in near the armory.

The National Guard unit had been mobilized and the 65 troops would leave that day.

The high school band played, a glee club sang. Everyone sang, "America — God shed his grace on thee." The pastor prayed and the mayor spoke. The military commander gave them 15 minutes and then they would meet on the parking lot.

There was shouting and bantering. In desert camouflage uniforms the troops began the sad farewells. Wives clung to husbands, and children held

on to daddy's leg. One young soldier turned his face so his son would not see him crying.

A whistle blew, the roll was called, and they began to board the bus. Now the band played "Stars and Stripes Forever" and several soldiers had small flags strapped to their headgear.

In the crowd was a middle age lady with a large flag attached to a short staff. She sang, she waved the flag, but somewhere in the transition, the patriotic woman became a mother. Her lips trembled and the flag ceased to wave. Soon she lowered the staff to the ground and leaned on it. From there, she sank to her knees, her body shaking with the heavy sobs.

This scene or one similar has taken

place in hundreds of hamlets and cities across our nation. Somehow that mother portrays the feelings of so many of us. We are patriotic; we love our land. We also love our children, our husbands or wives, or our daddy. Somewhere the patriotism fades into the background, and we become just another weeping loved one.

We are told that Mississippi is second in the nation in the number of National Guards mobilized. We are proud of our nation. We also love our children.

Thankful we are for the churches of our state engaged in so many prayerful ministries related to our military personnel. "... And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea."

Guest opinion . . .

A test of faith

By Robert M. Hanvey
I Peter 1:6-7

The war to liberate Kuwait began on Jan. 16, 1991, at approximately 5:30 p.m. Central Standard Time. This will become an infamous date. History was made Jan. 16, 1991.

I heard someone say that history is really today. We only understand what really happens today as we have time to reflect. Reflection occurs on the tomorrow and one is able to understand what took place yesterday. To understand the history of yesterday, we must pull together as much knowledge as possible and fit every aspect together in some formidable way. Then understanding comes.

Our tomorrow regarding the liberation of Kuwait may not culminate for a while. The intricacies of the Middle East — Persian Gulf — are together "today" and thousands of years of history. The tomorrow for this effort will come, I believe, only as we submit ourselves to Jesus, and only as he comes to reveal himself completely. This belief is predicated upon the work of God through his Son, through his Word, through his Spirit, and through his people.

Prior to the conflict, we prayed hard and earnestly for God to intervene and bring peace, and that prayer continues even as these words are written. How God will intervene and how he will work will be known in the tomorrows to come and as Jesus reveals his plan for mankind and this world.

What do we as Christians do until peace comes or until Jesus returns? May I suggest several things we must do in order for the trial of our faith to be successful for Christ's sake.

1. Let us all pray diligently, earnestly, without ceasing for God to act and for men to recognize our God in Christ Jesus.

2. Let us pray for one another.

3. Let us pray for our families affected.

4. Let us pray for our service men and service women.

5. Let us pray for our president, our Congress, and our military leaders.

6. Let us pray for our world order and for every conflict occurring upon the face of our planet.

7. Let us pray that our faith will endure.

8. Let us pray that we shall not give up, abandon God, abandon faith, in any way disbelieve God, and in no way give assent to evil.

9. Let us pray for God to forgive us — Americans, Christians — so we might have a rightful place of spiritual influence upon our world.

10. Let us pray for our missionaries the strength to hold the name of Jesus high in many of the affected areas of the Middle East.

11. Let us pray for understanding among the people of the earth. To love our neighbor is an imperative from Jesus. To love our brother is an imperative from Jesus.

12. Let us pray that we can withstand the trial of our faith to the extent that Jesus brands us "faithful to the end," and makes us stewards over many more spiritual matters. We may be the last light of Christian hope or faith.

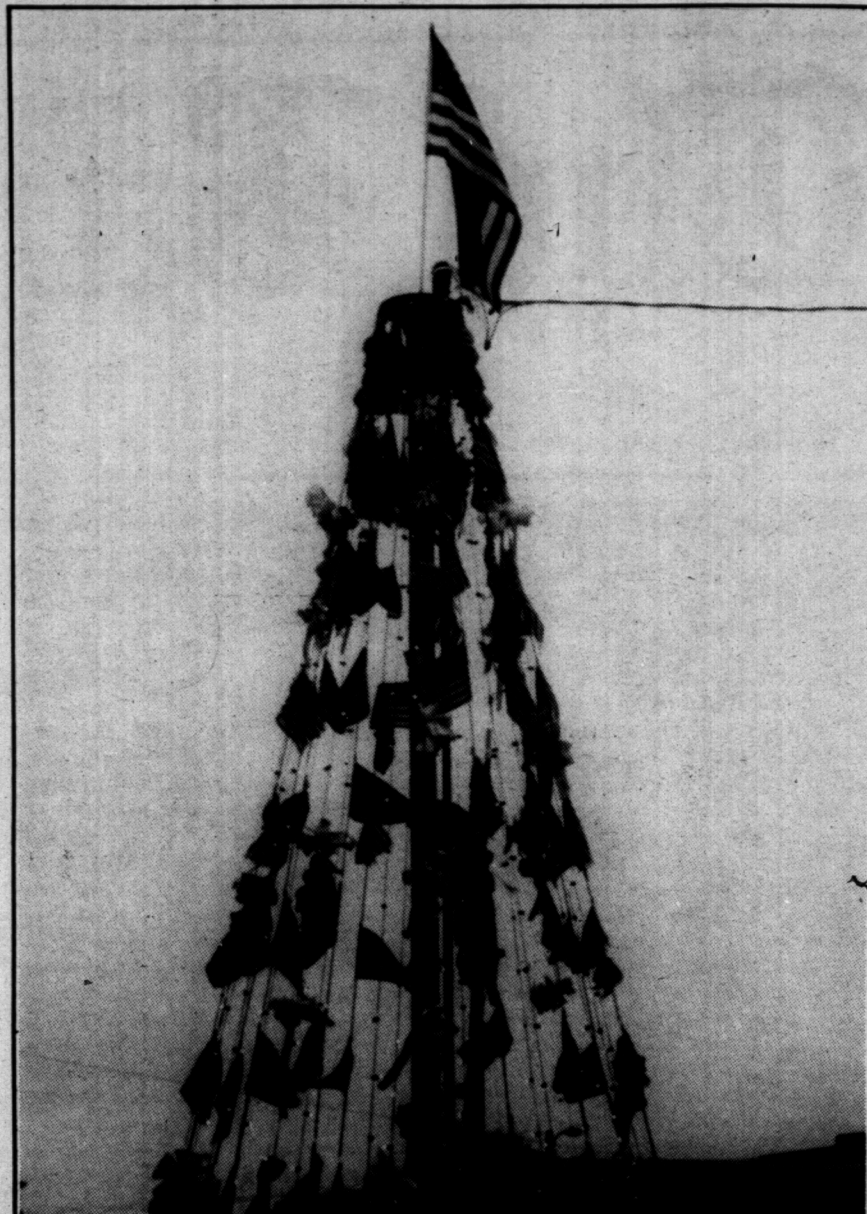
13. Let us pray . . . I know God will answer our prayers (I John 5:13-15). I know God will honor our faithfulness. I know God will be pleased if we endure for him.

The greatest result of the Middle Eastern conflict could very well be revival in America which will touch the entirety of our planet. Could this be, O God? Let it be if you so will!

Now is the time for us to stand firmly in our faith, look adversity in the eye, and claim our victory in Christ. Let us covenant together to claim corporate victory. Let us resolve not to accept falsehoods regarding our world. Let us resolve to disregard anything other than truth. Let us rely upon our God to receive the honor and the glory as his will is accomplished — however he chooses to work.

As our faith undergoes the present test of war and the calamities of war, let us determine to depend upon God through Jesus Christ for our help. The end result of a faith tested, tried and proved is far better than no faith at all. God, help us to please you with our conduct in this, our testing period.

Hanvey is pastor, First Church, Hazlehurst.



U.S. flags and yellow ribbons sprouting from a "tree" in Crystal Springs represent the 160 military servicemen on duty from that town. Story, p. 7.

"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

By Robert M. Parham

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"

Nathanael's disparaging reaction to Philip's invitation to meet Jesus resulted from the prejudice that existed between the villages of Cana and Nazareth. Each held the other in such contempt that Nathanael could not imagine that the one about whom Moses and the prophets had written could emerge from a rival place.

We, too, often question the value of other people based upon their color or place of origin. Whites frequently disdain people of color; people of color view whites with contempt.

Racial hatred erupts in the public square when we paint a swastika on a synagogue, burn a cross on a church lawn, or stereotype facial features.

Racial prejudice surfaces in our language about one another. We hurl racial slurs in anger or with humor.

Racial injustice prevails when we confine people to certain neighborhoods and exclude people from certain schools or ban them from certain clubs.

Even those with the same skin pigmentation frequently have hostile attitudes toward one another.

Prejudice between Arabs and Jews, Germans and Poles, Irish and

English, Ethiopians and Eritreans, and many other groups, is widespread.

Prejudice comes from many roots. It grows sometimes out of ignorance. It comes at other times out of familiarity leading to jealousy. It results oftentimes from fear. It is always the bitter fruit of a sinful and prideful heart.

Regardless of the cause of prejudice, its perpetuation is never justified for Christians. God is the creator of all people, and Christ is the one who breaks down the dividing wall, bestowing upon his followers the ministry of reconciliation.

Philip responded to Nathanael's critical exclamation about Jesus with a challenge: "Come and see for yourself."

We, too, ought to learn firsthand about people of color and people with different ethnic backgrounds. Do not simply accept the prevailing racial attitudes of your community. Get to know other racial and ethnic groups. See for yourself.

Good can come out of the most unexpected places!

Parham is associate director, Christian Life Commission, SBC.

Iraq

Iraq — pronounced: ee-RAHK
Area: 173,260 square miles — about 3½ times the size of Mississippi.
North-south: 530 miles, east-west: 495 miles, coastline: 40 miles.
Population: 1973: 10,540,000, today estimate 18,000,000.
Language: Arabic.

Chief products: barley, dates, wheat, wool, petroleum, leather products — 50 percent of people earn living from agriculture.

Climate: Average 48° F in winter, 94° in summer, rainfall — 7-15 inches per year.

Religion: Islam; small number of Christians.

Archaeologists consider Iraq as a cradle of civilization; written history back to 3,000 B.C. The Babylonian Empire and King Nebuchadnezzar II flourished there over 2,500 years ago.

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 115 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 1

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor Guy Henderson
Associate Editor Anne McWilliams
Advertising Manager Evelyn Keyes
Editorial Associate Florence Larrimore
Circulation Manager Renee Walley
Bookkeeper Betty Anne Bailey
Proofreader/Secretary Shannon Simpson
Editor Emeritus Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Susan Kinton, Walnut Grove; Raymond Martin Jr., Jackson, chairman; Billy Thames, Wesson; Randy Turner, Natchez; Tommy Tutor, Clarksdale; Randy Von Kanel, Hattiesburg; ex-officio, Evelyn Keyes, secretary, Jackson.
Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Send news, communications, and address changes to
The Editor, Baptist Record
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Exec Committee will consider budget

NASHVILLE (BP) — A Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program unified budget of \$140,710,282 for 1991-92 will be recommended to the SBC Executive Committee when it meets in Nashville Feb. 18-20. The budget total represents a 2.46 percent increase over the current budget of \$137,332,252.

The recommendation will be made by the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee which met in Nashville Jan. 23-24 to consider requests from the various convention boards, agencies, commissions and committees.

If approved by the Executive Committee, the recommendation will be considered by messengers to the 1991 annual meeting of Southern Baptists June 4-6 in Atlanta.

The total amount requested by the various convention entities was \$148,640,221 or an increase of 8.2 percent. However, the subcommittee was limited to a 2.46 percent increase because of SBC action specifying that the budget goal could be no greater than the Cooperative Program receipts for the last fiscal year of record.

The last year of record was 1989-90 when receipts reached the \$140,710,282. The convention also voted that receipts above that total would be divided evenly between the program advance budget and the capital needs budget. Program advance funds will be divided according to the Cooperative Program budget percentages. Capital needs funds will be divided according to a formula approved to run until the year 2000 or until the convention-approved capital needs budget of \$22,917,911 has been met.

Subcommittee members chose not to apply the 2.46 percent increase to all requests. Instead each presentation was evaluated on its merits, members said. The result was percentage increases for the Executive Committee, the Public Affairs Committee, and the Christian Life Commission.

The Foreign and Home Mission boards, together with the Baptist World Alliance, each received 2.46 percent increases. All other SBC entities received two percent or less.

The Executive Committee budget, which includes expenses for the annual convention, received a 15.48 percent increase (\$369,698). Officials said the extra funds were needed to pay for rising costs associated with the annual convention and to fund a new public relations program for the Southern Baptist Convention. The requested increase for the Executive Committee budget was \$682,686 or 28.59 percent.

The highest percentage increase went to the Public Affairs Committee, 30 percent. However, subcommittee members indicated the percentage was misleading since the PAC's budget was only \$25,000. The program and budget subcommittee recommended an additional \$7,500 for the coming year.

The Christian Life Commission is recommended for a 4.30 percent increase. Subcommittee members said the funds were needed to help fund the program assignment expansion approved by Southern Baptists during the 1990 convention in New Orleans. That action involved adding religious liberty concerns to the CLC program assignment.

At that time messengers also approved a 40.70 percent increase in the CLC's budget or an increase of \$365,328 to help fund the new responsibility.

This year the CLC requested a 23.09 percent increase in its budget.

Subcommittee members said a priority in the budget process was to recommend a budget with no less than 50 percent of SBC Cooperative Program receipts going to the Foreign Mission Board and no less than the current 19.55 percent going to the Home Mission Board.

To maintain the current levels of (See **BUDGET** on page 4)

Peruvian vice president sees politics as ministry

By Mary E. Speidel

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Christians need to be "salt and light" in all areas of life, including politics, declares Carlos Garcia, a Peruvian Baptist pastor-turned-politician.

"Political power in itself is neither good nor bad. It depends on the person who has that power," said Garcia, second vice president of Peru, during a January visit to the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va.

Garcia, a lawyer and former Baptist pastor in Peru and Colombia, rose to political power last June when he was elected second vice president. He sees his position as "ministry on a much larger scale. I'm able to reach out and touch the lives of millions of people in Peru."

He became interested in entering politics while working for eight years as Peruvian national director of World Vision, a Christian relief organization. In that role he visited some of Peru's poorest areas.

"This contact with the poor people and my understanding of the Christian vocation led me to want to participate in the political arena as part of my Christian responsibility," said Garcia, who also has been president

of Peru's National Evangelical Council.

Garcia was elected on a ticket with presidential winner Alberto Fujimori, a Roman Catholic. About one-third of the congressional candidates who ran on Fujimori's slate were evangelicals, who make up 5 percent of the population of Peru. Fourteen of them were elected as representatives and four as senators.

The election of so many evangelicals made history in Peru, where some 90 percent of the population is Roman Catholic, Garcia said.

Evangelicals also made political history in Guatemala, another predominantly Roman Catholic country. In January, Protestant candidate Jorge Serrano Elias was elected president, winning 68 percent of the vote.

The elections of evangelicals point to the growing Protestant movement across traditionally Roman Catholic Latin America. Since the 1960s, evangelical ranks have grown from 15 million to about 40 million.

However, evangelicals in the region "have tended to isolate themselves (See **PERU** on page 5)

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 7, 1991

Published Since 1877

Evangelism Conference held at First Church, Clinton

By Guy Henderson

Meeting under the theme, "Share Heritage and Hope — Extend Christ's Mission," the State Evangelism Conference met in the new First Church in Clinton. Bill Baker, pastor, and Mayor Billy Ray Smith welcomed the conference participants. J. Garland McKee was presented as the new evangelism director, and presided over the opening session.

The three-day conference was challenged and inspired by a variety of speakers and musicians. The Singing Churchmen of Mississippi was one of the musical highlights in a mini-concert.

Neil Jackson Jr., growth consultant with the Sunday School Board, SBC, emphasized the Sunday School as an immediate way to get evangelism started in a church. "The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of your hospital is

just what it says. We need for Sunday School to be an ICU. Each class should be an ICU to the members."

The pastor of the New Way Fellowship Baptist Church in Miami, Billy Baskin, has seen the church grow from 125 to 4,000 in 15 years. "Watch out," he declared, "when Jesus began to ask questions... something is about to happen."

Chuck Kelley, evangelism professor at New Orleans Seminary, spoke twice on heritage and hope. He traced evangelism from 1904 in terms of Home Mission Board directors and the various contributions each one brought to the task. He said the golden age of evangelism in the SBC had been in the 1950s and 1960s. Evangelism conferences for each state, simultaneous revivals, and witness training enabled the SBC to

double baptisms in a decade.

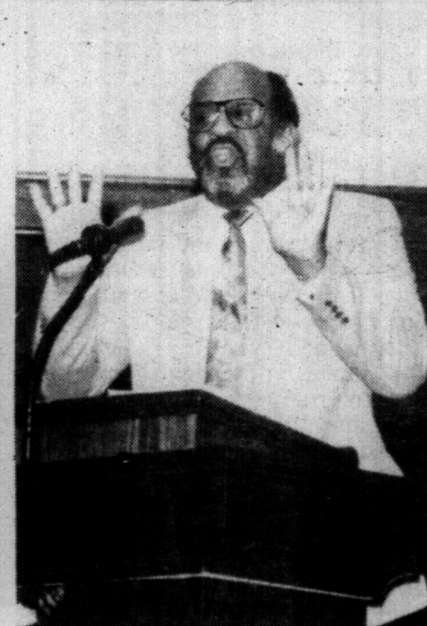
Kelley, in reading Acts 1:6-11 on the ascension of Christ, said, "I'm glad he's gone." He has gone to prepare a place for us and to be our advocate. Along with this, we have his promise to return.

Avery Willis of Discipleship Training Department, Sunday School Board, SBC, spoke of the crisis we are in and we "dare not go on as usual. Our nation is under the judgment of God, and if the land is to be healed, Christians must repent."

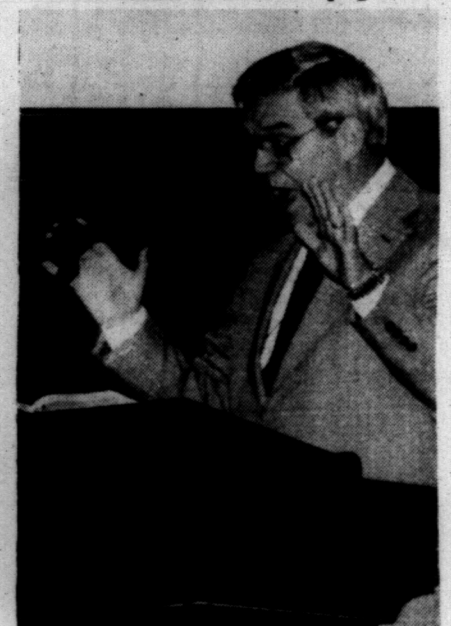
"We are experiencing crisis in our world and in our denomination," declared Charles Carter, pastor of Shades Mountain Church of Birmingham. He said the success-oriented society can cripple you. We have more (See **EVANGELISM** on page 5)



Garland McKee



Billy Baskin



D. L. Lowrie

"Empowered!" will be theme of WMU annual meeting in March

By Marjean Patterson

Women — and men, too — from all over Mississippi are invited to attend the 120th annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union.

Come to Jackson on Monday and Tuesday, March 18-19. First Church and the pastor, Frank Pollard, will host the convention.

Presiding over the sessions will be Mrs. Joan Tyler of Collins, who is in her second year as president of Mississippi WMU. The four sessions are scheduled for 2 and 7 p.m. Monday and 9:30 and 1:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Some of those who will be program guests will be the national WMU executive director, Dellanna O'Brien. A warm, charming woman with a multifaceted missions background, she will speak at each session. There will also be a special time on Monday night when everyone will have an oppor-



Reese

McWhorter



Tyler



Gibson

tunity to meet her.

Deborah Brunt, of Corinth, will be featured in each session as a woman out of the Bible who exemplified one of the objectives in the 1990-91 WMU theme, "Empowered."

Among a host of other program people (See **WMU** on page 4)



Causey returns to work

Bill Causey, who underwent heart surgery Dec. 7, 1990, after a mild heart attack on Dec. 4, is back in his office at the Baptist Building in Jackson. He returned to his work as executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on Jan. 14. Since then, he worked one week, two hours per day; one week of half days; and one week, three-fourths of each day. This week he's back full-time. However, he is not yet allowed by his doctors, he said, to attend night meetings or to accept speaking engagements.

Last week, the eighth after his surgery, he said he felt amazement to be back at work so quickly. "But it's the longest I've gone without preaching since I was 17," he said. "I miss that."

"God has truly been with me," he added, "and has blessed me with renewed strength daily."

International Service Corps personnel assigned to jobs

RICHMOND, Va. — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has named 20 people to attend a Jan. 30-Feb. 14 orientation and then work overseas through its International Service Corps (ISC) program.

Another 16 ISC workers will go to the field exempt from orientation because of previous overseas experience.

The new personnel include evangelism workers, English-language workers, conference coordinators, students, and a veterinarian. They will work alongside missionaries for periods ranging from four months to two years.

Ten married couples are included in

this latest group of ISC participants. Those who attend orientation will travel to the board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

Seven people were selected for assignment with Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist agency that assists nations where missionaries do not work. They include Jim and Penni Tilton of Fort Worth, Texas. Mrs. Tilton, originally from Bogue Chitto, was educated at William Carey College. She is assigned to Cooperative Services International as an English-language worker, Central Asia. Her husband is assigned as an administration worker there for two years.

BREAKTHROUGH SS Convention is scheduled for Feb. 25-26

BREAKTHROUGH is the theme of a state Sunday School growth meeting scheduled for Feb. 25-26, 1991 at Broadmoor Church, Jackson.



Short

An Early Bird conference will feature a look at challenges facing churches for the 1990s. Bill Taylor, associate pastor of Prestonwood Church, Dallas, will explore the challenges. Taylor, using state-of-art technology, will confront some traditional approaches to church ministry.

A BREAKTHROUGH lunch for pastors and church staff will feature Mark Short, executive director-

treasurer, Louisiana Baptist Convention, and church growth specialist. The lunch is by pre-registration. Cost for lunch and conference materials for the afternoon session is \$10 for individuals or \$25 for groups of three or more registering from the same church.

The Sunday School Convention, for all Sunday School workers and church staff, will be held Monday evening, beginning at 6:45. Mark Short will bring the message. A series of conferences will provide BREAKTHROUGH training for all Sunday School workers and church staff.

The growth session will continue Tuesday, featuring Andy Anderson and the Growth Spiral. Additional conferences on growth will be provided for general officers and age-group workers during the day on Tuesday.

Joint statement

President and trustee officers, Baptist Sunday School Board:

President Lloyd Elder, Trustee Officers William Anderson, Eugene Mims, J. B. Miller, and General Administration Committee Chairman Dan Collins, Baptist Sunday School Board, issued the following joint statement:

At the Jan. 17 called meeting of the trustees of the Sunday School Board, a concern was raised by the General Administration Committee concerning the taping of telephone conversations in the president's office without the knowledge of all the persons being taped.

During the period of Nov. 1-15, 1990, three telephone conversations involving the president of the Board were recorded. At no time were those whose conversations were being taped told so, either explicitly or implicitly. The chairman and general counsel should have been apprised.

The conversations were on a conference-speaker phone in the president's office and recorded with a hand-held dictation machine. These calls involved as few as two and as many as seven persons related to trustee business and follow-up actions. Once notes and follow-up actions were taken, the tapes were erased.

One of those conversations was played back to others not involved on the tape, but who were included in the seven following up on the business process. According to the president, at no time were these recordings played for anyone other than participants or used for any purpose other than trustee business actions as stated.

On Dec. 13, 1990, in the five-member workgroup of the General Administration Committee, the president was asked if he had knowledge of telephone calls being taped here at the Board. He answered, "No." When this question was asked a second time, he again said, "No." He added, "Personal calls have not, but there have been a few instances when conference calls using the speaker

phone in my office have been recorded to transact Board business, but always with knowledge of all parties." He also said that there were a couple of occasions when a recording was used for correspondence dictation between the former chairman and the president's executive assistant at the former chairman's request.

On Jan. 17, when the president responded from memory to a question of "ethical concern" about taping, his response was substantially accurate. However, after a review of the events, he has corrected his statement at one point: he did not alert the chairman and general counsel that their conversation was being taped. The president and those at his office conference-speaker phone had knowledge of the recordings being made by his executive assistant and that the tapings, as described above, were for business purposes and accurate follow-up action.

The General Administration Committee and the president have found no evidence of any other instances of taping calls without the consent of the parties. Accordingly, we believe it is critical to the best interest of the Sunday School Board that everyone know that in the future telephone conversations will not be recorded without the consent of all persons spoken to, and that they can trust this institution and its employees. It is also critical to the Board's continuing ministry that people who know us understand what has transpired. We need and value relationships built upon trust and integrity over the century.

Hopefully, this statement will help to lay this matter down and allow us to move forward as trustees, administration, employees, and Southern Baptists in an orderly transition to a new president guiding the work of this great Board.

BUDGET

From page 3

support, the subcommittee recommended a 2.46 percent increase for each mission board. The FMB requested a 6.24 percent increase and the HMB requested a 6.49 percent increase.

The Commission on the American Baptist Theological Seminary is recommended for a 2 percent increase. The seminary, located in Nashville, is jointly sponsored by National and Southern Baptists.

The six Southern Baptist seminaries were recommended for a 1.5 percent increase. They had requested an 8.76 percent increase. Funds allocated for the seminaries are divided by an SBC approved formula. The subcommittee only recommends the total amount going to seminary education. In the proposed budget, that will be 20.27 percent, down from the current 20.46 percent. Each one tenth of one percent translates to \$140,710.

The Radio and Television Commission will receive a 1.76 percent increase in the new budget. They had requested a 14.68 percent increase.

Receiving a one percent adjustment will be the Stewardship Commission, the Historical Commission, the Education Commission, the Brotherhood Commission, the Southern Baptist Foundation, and the Annuity Board.

The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs received no increase. It will remain at \$50,000. The BJCPA requested that its funding be restored to \$400,000, the level of financial support prior to shifting the religious liberty assignment to the CLC.

One other organization receives funds through the SBC Cooperative Program budget. Religion in American Life is a consortium of American religious organizations which work together to promote church attendance. It is recommended for an increase of 2.23 percent for a total of \$12,500.

Mississippi native appointed by Home Mission Board

Jim Blair of Bourbon was appointed to mission service by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in January. Blair will serve in Modesto, Calif., as a church planter apprentice. His wife, Cathy, a native of California, will work in family and church service.

Blair is a graduate of Jackson State University and Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. A former minister of education in Oakland, Calif., Blair's goals as a church planter are to minister to the unchurched in Modesto and to establish home Bible studies.

The Blairs have three children, Britni, Cedric, and Brandon.



Jim and Cathy Blair

WMU

From page 3

ple are home missionaries, Mildred McWhorter, of Houston, and Carol Reese, of Chicago, and retired foreign missionary, Wana Ann Fort, physician, from Zimbabwe. Also, Evelyn Tully, WMU executive director in Illinois, will be on the program.

Two meal functions will be part of the missions festivities. Banquets on Monday night and Tuesday noon will feature music and missions, food and fellowship. These meal functions are by reservation only. Cost of each banquet is \$7.50. Space is limited to 750 at each banquet. To make reservations, send \$7.50 per person per meal to the WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, 39205. Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.

Musicians who will provide leadership during the convention are Mrs. Gwen Hitt, director; James Arrington Goff, organist; and Judy Arrington, pianist.

A detailed outline of the program will be in the Baptist Record later.

Patterson is director, Mississippi WMU.

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, lighting, folding doors, theater seats.

Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery

Box 501, Fulton, MS. 38843
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627

We remodel & paint

Ask about the energy savings of gas appliances, for now and for years to come.



Mississippi Valley Gas Company

Gas gives you more for your money.

Chaplain suggests ways to minister to military families

By Sarah Zimmerman

ATLANTA (BP) — A grandmother, a newlywed and a woman expecting her third child have found comfort in unity, though their lives are marred by separation.

They are three of 14 women who meet weekly in the military support ministry of Windsor Forest Church in Savannah, Ga. Their common denominator is that their husbands are in the Middle East with Operation Desert Storm.

"All we're doing is trying to keep up their morale and praying a lot," says Nita Lambert, group coordinator.

Church members provide child care during the 90-minute meetings and transportation to the church. Sunday school classes take turns providing refreshments.

Perhaps the group called upon most often is the basic repairs committee. Lambert said church members have installed home security lights and repaired cars for the military wives.

During one meeting, a plumber brought a new toilet and demonstrated its upkeep. Another church member prepared a booklet of similar suggestions, such as instructions to check the fuse first if the clothes dryer quits working.

The weekly meetings are divided into two 45-minute segments. The first is practical advice on everything from budgets to babies.

The second segment involves counseling and support.

The church works with chaplain Brett Travis at Savannah's Hunter Army Airfield to find people who might benefit from the support group.

Travis, a Southern Baptist, says such support groups "open doors in the community to share Christ." They give the church a chance to "look in-

to the eyes of conflict and say there is hope."

Travis offers the following suggestions for establishing a ministry to families of people stationed in the Middle East:

— Work with the chaplain at the nearest military base. Ask one church member to attend Sunday morning chapel at the post "in order to keep a pulse on changes that are occurring."

— "The pastor needs to take a very positive role from the pulpit. He needs to make a statement about what the church represents to the community in a time of crisis," Travis says. "Discuss what the Bible says about conflict and how the church fits into that."

— Ask church members with military experience to be leaders in the program because of the credibility they will have with other military families.

— Be creative in approaches to support groups. Try a Saturday morning prayer breakfast or weekly prayer luncheon as a Middle East support group.

— Be informed about the role of chaplains. Ask a military chaplain to speak during a church service. Prayerfully support their ministry.

Even churches not near a military base can minister to people who have family members in the Middle East. Rather than leading a support group for spouses, such churches could offer support groups to parents or siblings of people stationed in the Middle East.

"Offer to be their extended family at this time and to meet once a week to pray for their loved one," Travis says.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.

PERU

From page 3

from political life," according to Garcia.

The country saw 3,000 percent inflation in 1989. Fujimori set emergency austerity measures in motion to curb hyperinflation. The economy's first reaction: more inflation. Overnight Peru became the most expensive South American country. Food prices jumped more than 300 percent. Peruvians called it "Fuji shock."

The price hikes made survival even more difficult for the people of Peru, where per capita income is about \$15

a month. Many families reportedly have been forced to rely on government aid or charity for their meals.

But the austerity measures have since trimmed inflation from 25 to 30 percent per month to about 6 percent, Garcia said. "We're trying to stabilize the economy and to get Peru back into the world market and then get to work on production within the country," he said.

"The sacrifice the people are making is great. The people have a lot of patience. They trust that their patience will be worth it to come out of the crisis," he said.

Speidel writes for FMB.

WMU makes staff changes

Effective Feb. 1, staff job assignments were revised for state Woman's Missionary Union consultants. "These changes were made in order to give more emphasis to churchwide missions activities and to make it possible for staff members to more effectively use their God-given gifts and talents," states Marjean Patterson, state WMU director.

The changes are lateral moves, with each consultant continuing on the same level. Consultants and their assignments are:

Trish Simmons, who has been serving as Girls in Action and Mission Friends consultant, will continue in the same job assignment she has had.

Jan Cossitt, who has been serving as Acteens consultant, will now be Acteens and Baptist Young Women consultant. Organizational patterns for Acteens and Baptist Young Women are similar and Baptist Young Women organizations are the next step up age-wise for the continuation of missions education and missions involvement of young women who are in their early years of adulthood.

Ashley McCaleb, who has been serving as Baptist Women consultant, will continue in her assignment as worker with women aged 35 and above. She will also continue as staff liaison with the Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

Monica Keathley, who formerly served as Baptist Young Women consultant, will now have the title, WMU consultant, meaning she will work with groups and emphases not designed for participation by only one age-level organization. For example, some of the responsibilities of her new assignment will involve working with language groups in the state, with missionary children, housing for furloughing foreign missionaries, growth in WMU, discovering mission action opportunities for women and girls, promoting trips for women interested in volunteer missions, and in coordinating all department training events.

Secretarial changes have likewise been revised in order to have vital support people assigned to the appropriate consultants.

EVANGELISM

From page 3

failures than success. "Success is a wonderful goal, but a terrible god."

Carter observed that we need help to evangelize the world. All denominations that acknowledge Christ as Lord are needed. All races need to be involved and even those of differing opinion. This includes the SBC controversy. "You can be my brother even though we may have different opinions."

The executive director of Tennessee Baptists, D. L. Lowrie, concluded the conference with a message on "God Shall Wipe Away All Tears." "Tears are basic," he said. "All that changes is what you cry about. If we weep the right kind of tears here, our tears will be tears of joy up there."

A special feature of the conference was the emphasis on prayer for the Persian Gulf situation. Each session had a special prayer time. Don McGregor, editor-emeritus of the Baptist Record and a former World War II prisoner of war, led the prayer on Wednesday.

Two Mississippi pastors, Odean Puckett of First, Natchez, and Bill Webb of Midway, Meridian, gave personal testimonies. Puckett told of mission trips to Mexico in the last decade which had resulted in revival. In a mountain village, 160 people, practically the entire village, had received Christ.

Webb spoke of his 24-year pastorate at Midway, where missions and evangelism were the keys to growth. Midway is presently giving 26 percent to missions. "Visitation and soul-winning are necessary. The pastor must be a people person."

Esther Burroughs of the Home Mission Board, SBC, addressed the conference on life-style witnessing, and led a two-hour women's conference on witnessing.

Evangelism Director J. Garland McKee spoke of his joy of being in Mississippi and of his commitment to assist churches in bringing Mississippi and the world to Jesus. McKee pointed out that Baptists have the best programs but "we must also have a passion for the lost."

Attendance was down at the conference by an estimated 25 percent. It may be the war, weather, or the economic conditions were the leading causes.

The 1992 Evangelism Conference will be Jan. 27-29 at Temple Church in Hattiesburg.

Gulfshore seeks summer staff

Gulfshore Assembly is accepting applications for employment for the 1991 summer staff, according to Frank Simmons, manager.

The assembly will begin its summer program on May 18, and continue through Aug. 15. A feature of the program this year is the addition of four CENTRIFUGE events, sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Available positions include food services, Red Cross trained lifeguards, housekeeping, registration and office, first aid, and grounds and maintenance.

The assembly provides activities for the staff; and they have the opportunity for service as well as personal spiritual growth and development.

Interested college age students are encouraged to meet with Simmons Feb. 18-Feb. 28 on various college campuses across Mississippi, where he will interview prospective employees.

For information about the interview schedule, contact Simmons at Gulfshore or the BSU director on the college campus in your respective area of the state.

Thursday, February 7, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Acteens Convention is set for March 1-2 in Clinton

Acteens from across the state will focus on the theme, "People All Over the World," when they gather at First Church, Clinton, March 1-2, for their annual convention.

Activities will begin with a Queens' Banquet at 5:15 Friday at the church, for Acteens who have completed Stadiact requirements for Queens level and above. Beth Howell, 1990 Miss Mississippi and a native of Clinton, will be the featured speaker for the banquet. Reservations of \$7 per person must be received in the WMU office by Feb. 25.

The general session will begin at 6:45 Friday with a worship period and theme interpretation. "Lottie D," a musical on the life of Lottie Moon, will be presented by a cast of 54 from First Church, Starkville, at 7:30.

Following the musical, a giant missions fair, "All Aboard for Missions," will be held in the church gym. Missionaries from around the world will participate in the fair.

Saturday morning's session will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a worship period, to be followed by small conferences on social and moral issues facing youth today. Lunch will be served at the church.

Missionary speakers will be featured Saturday afternoon, along with a commissioning service for Acteens Activators and Innovators and recognition of Mississippi's National



Beth Howell

Acteen Panelist and Top Teens. The session will conclude at 4 p.m.

A reservation fee of \$5 is required to take care of the cost of Saturday lunch and printed materials. Reservations must be received in the WMU office by Feb. 25. For additional information, contact the WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or call 968-3800.

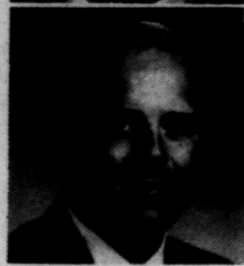


**5th Annual
STATE-WIDE
Growth Spiral Conference**
February 26, 1991
Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, MS
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



Andy Anderson
*Advanced Growth Spiral
Conference*

For those who have attended at least one Basic Growth Spiral Conference



Ken Marler
*Basic Growth Spiral
Conference*

For those who have not attended at least one Basic Growth Spiral Conference.

- Growth Spiral Notebook inserts will be available for purchase at \$5.00 each.
- Lunches — \$4.00 each

Pre-Registration Form

Church Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Person Making Reservations _____ Hm Phone _____

No. People attending: _____

Advanced Conference _____ Basic Conference _____

No. lunches _____ No. Notebook Inserts _____

Return to: Sunday School Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205
Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

"Noriega surrenders to the Lord Jesus Christ"

By Anne W. McWilliams

"General Manuel Noriega surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ and confessed him as Lord and Savior on May 15, 1990." Frank Pollard made this startling revelation in a sermon at First Church, Jackson, on Jan. 13, 1991, as he relayed reports from a warden and a chaplain at the Miami institution where Noriega is imprisoned.

The story began Jan. 6, 1990, when Clift Brannon, a Texas preacher, sent Panama's deposed leader a Spanish edition of the Soul Winner's New Testament, a help for soul winners which had been a brainchild of Brannon himself.

A few days later, Noriega wrote him: "I have received by mail your inspiring and spiritual communication . . . I thank God for his presence in my pathway . . ."

In reply, Brannon wrote,

"Remember, this is God reaching out to you in love . . . I believe God, who is our Father, gave me the message for you to know your mother was inspired and led of the Lord to name you Manuel. This name means 'God with us.' You will find it in Matthew 1, verse 23. It is underscored. You will see that the mother of Jesus Christ was told to 'call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us.'"

For several months, they corresponded. Meanwhile, Brannon prayed for Noriega. So did a group of Dallas Baptist pastors and other friends of Brannon.

On May 15 and 16, 1990, Brannon and Rudy Hernandez, another Texas preacher, visited Noriega in Miami. Hernandez has preached all over the world and has ministered to the Spanish in many places.

As to the results of that visit, Bran-

non wrote on May 18 "to all who have prayed for General Manuel Noriega":

Warden Stephan Pontosso of the Metropolitan Correctional Center, Miami, Fla. and Chaplain Hiram Irizarry have authorized me to report to you that God has heard your prayers and General Manuel Noriega surrendered to the Lord Jesus Christ and confessed him as Lord and Savior on May 15, 1990.

Evangelist Rudy Hernandez accompanied me and we were given the unbelievable privilege of spending almost six hours in private with General Noriega in the presence of Chaplain Irizarry. We used the Spanish Soul Winner's New Testament which I delivered to him by mail, which he had been studying and highlighting many verses as he read.

When we walked into the room and greeted him in the name of the Lord Jesus, he immediately reached into his pocket and pulled out the NT, saying that it had been a blessing to him. This opened the door for us to immediately go into reading each of the six scriptures and references, through the prayer following Romans 10:13-14. He repented and asked God for forgiveness of sins amid tears. This was a time of rejoicing. I then instructed him to make a confession of faith, and we studied Matt. 10:32-33 . . . He said that he would confess Christ publicly if he had an opportunity to do so. The next morning, May 16, I said, "Let us begin by reviewing the confession of faith."

Then I posed the question, "If your lawyer, Frank Rubino, should walk through the door at this moment, would you tell him that you had

received Jesus Christ as Savior?" He quickly reported, "When you left yesterday afternoon, I immediately called him and told him I had trusted Christ as Savior."

Next we instructed him on the responsibility of the Christian life . . . we told him he was a babe in Christ and we would get all the people who had been praying for him to pray for him to grow . . .

In Pollard's sermon a short time ago, he said, "You may say that he may have been doing that just to get out." Then he told about a woman who was converted while she was in a dungeon in Seoul, Korea, for planting a bomb in a plane and thus killing many people. The woman asked the person who witnessed to her not to tell that she was a Christian until after she had been executed. She didn't want anyone to think her commitment to Christ was to try to avoid punishment for what she had done.

Pollard said that Hernandez, a good friend of his, had told him, "I've seen people saved all over the world and I believe this man is genuinely saved. He had gone through MasterLife, in Spanish, the Southern Baptist material for discipling, he has won some others around him to Christ and is teaching them MasterLife now."

Pollard continued, "Only God knows if this is real. But many around him say they believe it is. God can change lives."

To let Noriega speak for himself, here is his testimony:

Before Christ came into my life, the realities of the materialistic world had the priority in my daily living. All of the past, together with illusions of

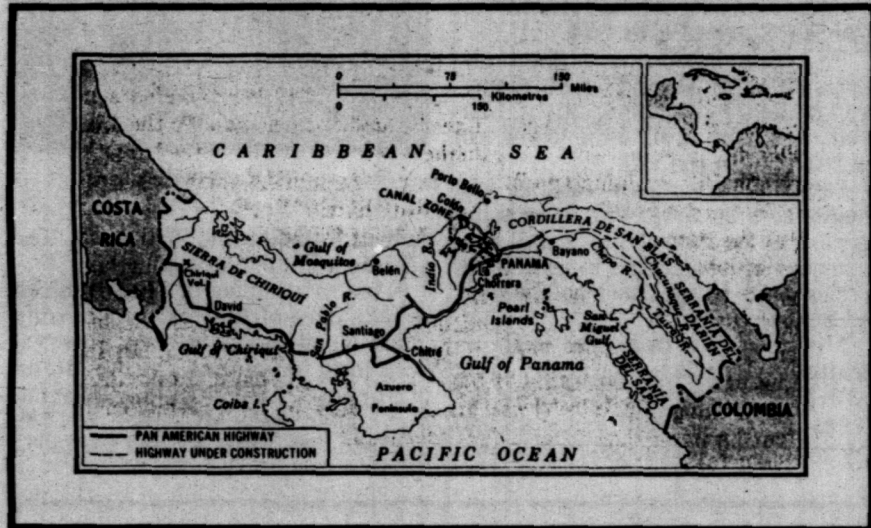


grandeur, the vainglory and the priority of the "me world" over the "me spirit," with the heart hardened as those of Meribah.

Before, Jesus to me was only an image of that which was learning from ritual religion, an historic being who worked miracles. All was transformed when on Tuesday, January the 16th, 1990, Dr. Clift asked me in a telephone conversation, he in Texas and I in the preventive prison of the court, "Do you know that Jesus loves you?"

I received Jesus Christ as my Savior the 15th of May of 1990 at 11:00 a.m. in a small room, like unto a cave, in the Metropolitan Correctional Center of Dade County, Florida, and under the inspiration and guidance of Dr. Clift Brannon and Rudy Hernandez in my condition as a prisoner.

Today, this is what He means to me: He is the Son of God, who died on the cross for our sins, who arose from the grave and is at the right hand of God the Father and who above all things He is my Savior, and has mercy on me, a sinner!



War may topple Saddam but fuel Islam extremism

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Persian Gulf war may eradicate Saddam Hussein's clout in the Middle East, but it also may leave fertile ground for Islamic fundamentalism.

Muslim fundamentalists may gain new momentum from longstanding issues in the Middle East that could become even more explosive after the war ends.

The gap between rich and poor Arab nations likely will continue to widen after the war, for example. Islamic movements may emerge as "the only refuge" for the poor, said Ibrahim Abu-Rabi', a Muslim Arab from Nazareth, Israel, and a Rockefeller Foundation fellow at the University of Texas in Austin.

Regionalism has intensified in the Middle East in recent months, Abu-Rabi' said. Oil-rich Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia as well as Egypt, Syria, and north African Muslim countries increasingly view themselves as distinct societies rather than parts of the broader "Arab nation," he said.

If the Gulf states in particular keep more and more of their wealth to themselves — a gripe among poorer Arab countries long before the war — Islam could become "a symbol of salvation from a general feeling of despair among the Arab population," Abu-Rabi' predicted.

"We might see many charismatic figures talking in the name of Islam as a way of counterbalancing the inequities," he said.

Islamic fundamentalism also could help fuel a major upheaval in Jordan, where the issue of a homeland for Palestinians will continue to fester after the war, added George Braswell.

Braswell is professor of missions and world religions at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and a Southern Baptist worker in Iran from 1967 to 1974.

Half or more of Jordan's 4 million people are Palestinian Arabs. Their families lost their land when Jewish settlers carved out the state of Israel in 1948 and expanded it in subsequent clashes with Arabs.

Jordan's King Hussein, who has ruled the country since the 1950s, is "sitting on a powder keg" of Palestinian frustration that could lead to revolt and his overthrow, Braswell said. And Palestinian activism for a homeland increasingly is becoming intertwined with Islamic fundamentalism.

Islamic and Arab anger against the United States could be kindled even by a convincing victory over Saddam, warned Dudley Woodberry, associate professor of Islamic studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

"If the damage to Iraq is too great, we can expect even the Arabs who have sided with us to have sympathies for Iraq," Woodberry said.

"Arab honor is tied up with this," he said, noting that maintaining personal and family honor is "the major value of the Arabs." Arab honor was prized even several centuries before the rise of Islam in the seventh century, and it extends to nations and the Arab people in general, he said.

Resenting the years they were colonized by Western powers, Arabs feel they were suppressed and used as pawns, Woodberry said. Arabs also resent the U.S. financial and military support of Israel that helped the Jewish state seize land formerly own-

ed by Palestinians and other Arabs. "To be crushed once again affects every Arab, no matter which side they're on," Woodberry said. "It would take very little to swing sympathy the opposite direction."

The presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia also offends many Muslims. "From the beginning of Islam, many Muslim jurists have issued injunctions saying that the Arabian peninsula, as the holy site of Islam, should be reserved to Muslims," Abu-Rabi' said.

Both Sunni and Shiite Muslims are troubled by "an 'infidel' force trampling on holy Muslim territory," Braswell concurred. "We have gone to the heartland of their religion."

For both branches of Islam, the Saudi Arabian city of Mecca is the focus of the pilgrimage, one of the

Five Pillars of Islam. Every physically and financially able Muslim is commanded to journey there at least once in his or her lifetime. Even today, no non-Muslim is permitted to visit the city.

The Saudi Arabian city of Medina is another key Islamic site. The prophet Muhammad reported his first revelations, gained his first followers, built his first mosque, and was buried there.

For Shiites — the minority branch of Islam encompassing about 15 percent of the world's Muslims — the Iraqi city of Karbala near Baghdad also is a key pilgrimage site, Braswell said.

For Middle East Christians, tension abounds in a clash between a U.S.-led coalition and Saddam's troops, said

David Goodenough, a Cyprus-based consultant to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Many branches of Middle East Christianity existed centuries before the U.S. came into being. But Muslims tend to link the region's Christians, who comprise about 7 percent of all Arabs, "with the kind of power base that can gather this kind of force" to subdue Iraq, Goodenough said. Muslims even link Arab believers with President Bush when he says he is a Christian who prays.

Such linkage "is not an academic issue in the Middle East," Goodenough said. "It's a part of life in the Middle East" and — for Christians in the region — it "makes life very, very precarious."

Toalston writes for FMB.

Letters to the editor

Praise for Lee Porter

Editor:

My heart weeps for a dedicated denominational servant whose career has been brought to a close by the controversy that has engulfed our convention. I refer to Lee Porter, who served faithfully as design editor of the Adult Curriculum Section of the Sunday School Board and as registration secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention until he dared respond to questions about the controversy in a seminary class he had been asked to teach and for this unpardonable crime was forthwith removed from both of these positions.

My heart weeps because his superiors at the Sunday School Board

bowed to pressure, demanding that he publicly apologize for the supposed wrongs he had done. And while they spoke out to rebuke him, they spoke not a word of public concern for him and his family or of appreciation for his long years of service to the convention.

My heart weeps for the denomination in the loss of an able and dedicated editor of its Sunday School materials, when I was still being asked to write adult Sunday school lessons, he often served as my editor. I have never worked with a more capable editor or with one more committed to the preparation of lessons that were biblically sound and suited to the needs of Southern Baptists. He

loved his Lord, his Bible, and his denomination. I fear that his removal from his editorial position signals one more step in the decline in quality of Sunday School curriculum materials.

My heart weeps most of all for a denomination that simply closes its eyes when someone who has served it so long and so faithfully is told that he must spend the rest of his career doing little odd jobs that require no training and no expertise. "Father, forgive us all, for we seem not to know what we are doing to one of our own."

Page H. Kelley,
John R. Sampey Professor
of Old Testament
Interpretation
Southern Seminary

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 7, 1991

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Youth Vocal and Choral Festivals

February 18, 1991

Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson
FBC, Greenwood

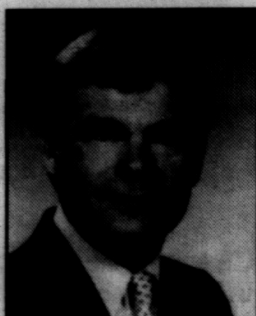
February 19, 1991

FBC, Hattiesburg

February 21, 1991

FBC, Brookhaven
West Heights Baptist Church, Pontotoc

Contact the Church Music Department for registration information.



Church Orchestra Festival

February 23, 1991, is the date of the Church Orchestra Festival (Parade of church orchestras) sponsored by the Church Music

Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The festival will be held at Morrison Heights Baptist Church in Clinton beginning at 8:30 a.m. with registration. Guest clinician and adjudicator will be **Dr. Doug Smith**, professor of Church Music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. Dr. Smith completed his doctorate in Musical Arts in applied trumpet at the University of Michigan. He has authored many articles concerning instrumental music in the church and has composed many pieces of music for instruments.

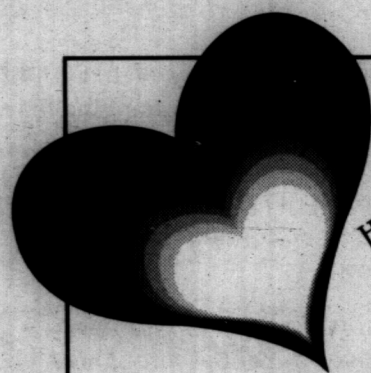
All church orchestras are encouraged to participate by being adjudicated, however, orchestra members and directors, as well as the general public, are welcome to come and observe. Orchestras playing for adjudication will be allowed twenty minutes to play their selections.

Lunch will be provided at Morrison Heights Baptist Church. Each individual will pay for their own meal at the registration time at the church. Cost will be \$4.00.

There is a registration fee of \$1.00 per person for orchestras being adjudicated. The registration fee should be sent along with the registration form to the Church Music Department by February 15, 1991.

Dr. John Hanbery, Contract Consultant for Instrumental Music for the Church Music Department, is coordinating this event. L. Graham Smith is director of the Church Music Department.

(See Back Page of HouseTops for Registration Form)



A
Heart to Heart
Invitation

...to the Baptist Women's Prayer Retreat

February 15-16, 1991
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Friday supper 6:00 p.m.
Saturday lunch 12:30 p.m.

There'll be time...

TO PRAY

Prayer Leader Barbara Joiner, author, inspirational speaker, Columbiana, Alabama

TO PRAISE

Praise Leader Karen Hardy, soloist, music assistant, Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton

TO MEDITATE

Theme Interpretation ... Pam Keith, writer, conference leader, Corinth Bible Study ... Frances Raley, missionary to Taiwan
Prayer Testimony ... Freda Trott, retired missionary to Brazil

TO RELAX

Exercises ... Pam Smith, Water Aerobics Instructor, Mississippi College

You're coming, aren't you? IT'S OUR HEART DESIRE!

For registration information, call the state WMU office, 968-3800.



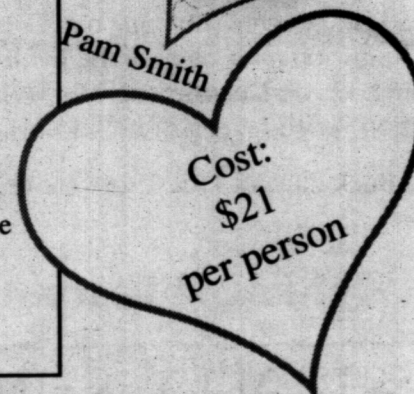
Pam Keith



Freda Trott



Pam Smith



Volunteers

Sunday, Feb. 24, is Volunteers in Missions Day among Southern Baptists. But Mississippi Baptists haven't been waiting for a special day to participate in Christian missions themselves.

According to the Brotherhood Department, a total of 315 projects were reported from churches, associations, and BSUs in the 1989-90 church year. These projects involved Baptists from every county in the state.

This involved 5,034 people in 43 states and 26 foreign countries. These are short term projects ranging from construction work to leading Bible clubs to cleaning ditches.

And these figures only include those groups which reported their involvement. It is estimated that a much larger number of church groups participate in volunteer missions.

Additionally, there are 50 Mississippians assigned as Mission Service Corps personnel. These are volunteers who pay their own expenses in extended terms as volunteers.

Mississippi presently is participating in two partnerships—one with Illinois and another with Zimbabwe. Details for

participation in the African nation are still being worked out, but since last summer, a total of 19 Mississippi groups have traveled to Illinois for mission work.

Typical of the Illinois teams was a group of 11 from First Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg who worked in Brainard and Darien with Vacation Bible School and Bible Club, plus prospect visitation and youth work.

A report from the Mississippi church noted, "On the last day there were many hugs, sad goodbyes and even a few tears. Several of the children expressed a desire to know Christ as Savior and all seemed to grow one step closer to making that commitment."

The report continued, "It was a tremendous privilege for us to participate in the partnership with the Illinois Baptist Convention. We felt like we were able to be channels of God's blessings."

Persons wishing to participate in the partnership or for details on volunteer work can contact the Brotherhood Department at 968-3800, or phone the Home Mission Board at 1-800-HMB-VOLS.

PraiSing II

A Jubilee Celebration

March 11-14, 1991

Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tennessee

As of January 9, 1991, Mississippi has 276 people registered for PraiSing II. PraiSing II is the national celebration highlighting the 50th anniversary of the Sunday School Board's Church Music Department and the release of THE BAPTIST HYMNAL! Your congregation, choir members, leaders and staff are invited to join in this celebration.

Monday evening will feature Jerry Clower, America's Christian humorist and the vocal joy of Karla Worley, contemporary Christian artist. On Tuesday evening, America's finest men's choir, The Centurymen will be singing and Christine Anderson, the solo handbell ringer you'll never forget, will be ringing in the service. The piano duo, Nielson and Young, and a 200 voice choir from Baptist colleges and seminaries will delight you on Wednesday evening. Thursday evening brings a 1,300 voice combined choir of the choirs from State Baptist Conventions (Mississippi Singing Churchmen will be a part of this combined choir) and the premiere of THE BAPTIST HYMNAL. Everyone attending Thursday evening will receive a souvenir copy of THE BAPTIST HYMNAL.

Reservations are necessary!! A ticket for all four nights is \$50.00. Individual night tickets are available. Tickets for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights are \$15.00 each. Thursday night ticket is \$20.00 (includes souvenir copy of the hymnal). Contact the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for registration forms.

(See Back Page of HouseTops for Registration Form)

SUPER SUMMER MISSISSIPPI

JULY 22-26

at Mississippi College

Discipleship/Evangelism Training for
SENIOR High Youth

Contact Discipleship Training for Details

An Open Letter to Sunday School Members



Being a member of a Sunday School class is a unique and wonderful opportunity. I hope you appreciate what an opportunity it is.

You are a part of an organization whose purpose is to reach people for Jesus Christ. Your class should be the most open, caring, and accepting group in your church.

You are involved in regular Bible study. What could be more helpful, challenging, and life-changing than to study God's Word?

You are a ministering group. In fact, you are the basic ministering organization of your church. You touch more lives than you know.

You are a witnessing, worshiping, and informing group. You impact the lives of people throughout your church and your community.

Why am I writing this? It is to challenge you to take seriously the opportunity you have through your Sunday School to touch people's lives. I hope you'll consider the hurting, sin-torn people who need your Sunday School. They come in all sizes, ages, needs, and risks to you. But they need you as never before. Will you join me in a prayer for Sunday School BREAKTHROUGH as you reach out to people?

Sincerely

Keith Wilkinson

Registration Form for Sunday School Breakthrough
Conference on Back Page of HouseTops

College and Single Adult Sunday School Leadership Conferences February 11-14

College leader: Nell McGee, Consultant
National Student Ministry
Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville

Single Adult leader: Carolyn Ulmer
Minister to Adults
First Baptist Church, Conroe, Texas

(See Calendar for Dates and Locations)

BREAKTHROUGH

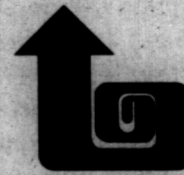
BRE
SUND
BROA

February 25 - Monday

- 10:00 Early Bird Conference: "Innovation for BREAKTHROUGH" pastors and church staff, will hear a presentation by Mark Short, Executive Director-Treasurer, Baptist State Convention. Riddley pioneered the use of state-of-the-art technology in his presentation. Using state-of-the-art technology in his presentation, the conference is "a must" for church staffs to share to.
- 12:00 BREAKTHROUGH: Sunday School for the 1990's. Speaker: Mark Short, Executive Director-Treasurer, Baptist State Convention. Cost \$10.00 individual, \$25.00 for three or more.
- 2:00 The BREAKTHROUGH Sunday School for the 1990's.
 - MISSISSIPPI: Contrasts and Changes—Orrin Moore
 - BREAKTHROUGH—How It Affects Your Age Group
 - BREAKTHROUGH: Adults
 - BREAKTHROUGH: Youth
 - BREAKTHROUGH: Children
 - BREAKTHROUGH: Preschool
 - Sunday School Breaking Through Barriers—Eugene Riddley, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Chicago, Illinois
- 4:15 Dismiss

BREAKTHROUGH SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

- 6:45 Music and Testimonies - Soldiers Again - Men's Quartet, Greené, Director
- 7:00 Welcome - Keith Wilkinson, Director, Sunday School Convention. Prayer - Jim Futral, pastor, Broadmoor Baptist Church. Theme Drama - Drama Group, Broadmoor Baptist Church.
- 7:15 Special Music
- 7:20 "The Sunday School Growth Challenge" — Mark Short, Louisiana Baptist Convention
- 7:45 Adjourn to Conferences
- 8:00-9:30 Conferences for Pastors, Staff, Sunday School Age Groups



February 26 - Tuesday SUNDAY SCHOOL GROWTH/ST

- 9:00 General Session - "Sunday School Growth for the 1990's" and the Growth Spiral, Sunday School Board, Nashville
- 9:45-11:45 Conferences
 1. Advanced Growth Spiral - Andy Anderson
 2. Base Growth Spiral - Ken Marler, Growth Spiral
 3. Adult Growth Conferences - A series of conferences for adults and directors, church staff.
 4. Youth Growth Conferences - A series of conferences for youth and directors.
 5. Children's Growth Conferences - A series of conferences for Sunday School teachers and directors.
 6. Preschool Growth Conferences - A series of conferences for preschool teachers and directors.
- 11:45-12:30 Lunch (purchase)
- 12:30-3:30 Conferences (continued)

BREAKTHROUGH: SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE 1990'S

BROADMOOR BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON
FEBRUARY 25-26, 1991

BREAKTHROUGH— This conference, designed specifically for presentation by Al Riddley, Sunday School Director of the Illinois and the use of Bible study groups to reach unsaved youth and presentation by Bill Taylor, associate pastor of Dallas' Pre-Understanding and responding to the challenge of the 1990's. Presentation, Taylor concentrates on the church's ministry. This share together.

1990's Lunch — "Sunday School: Vision for the 1990's"— Treasurer, Louisiana Baptist Convention. (Lunch by pre-regis- three or more staff. Cost includes conference materials.)

the 1990's
Erin Morris, Research Specialist, Home Mission Board, Atlanta
Age Groups in Sunday School (Round Robin)

— Eugene L. Gibson pastor, Mission of Faith

CONVENTION

Men's Quartet, Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, Jackson, Rick

day School Dept., MBCB
tist Church
r Baptist Church

— Mark Short, Executive Director-Treasurer,

ool Age-Group and General Officers

TH/STATE GROWTH SPIRAL CONFERENCE

th for the 1990's" - Andy Anderson, Developer of Action
Board, Nashville

Anderson
rowth Consultant, BSSB
s of conferences for adult ministers, Sunday School teachers
es of conferences for youth ministers, Sunday School teachers
series of conferences for children's ministers,
ors.
series of conferences for preschool ministers, Sunday

Start a Cradle Roll and Grow



Sunday School Growth Conference February 11-14

Led by Peggy Ward, Preschool
Special Worker in Mississippi

(See Calendar for Dates and Locations)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 11** Single Adult/College Tour - 38th Avenue Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, 6:45-9:15 p.m.
- 11** Start-A-Cradle Roll & Grow Tour - First Baptist Church, Southaven, 6:45-9:15 p.m.
- 12** Single Adult/College Tour - Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson, 6:45-9:15 p.m.
- 12** Start-A-Cradle Roll & Grow Tour - First Baptist Church, Greenwood, 6:45-9:15 p.m.
- 13** Single Adult/College Tour - Calvary Baptist Church, Starkville, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- 13** Start-A-Cradle Roll & Grow Tour - Briarwood Baptist Church, Jackson, 10:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
- 14** Single Adult/College Tour - First Baptist Church, Tupelo, 6:45-9:15 p.m.
- 14** Start-A-Cradle Roll & Grow Tour - First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, 6:45-9:15 p.m.
- 25** Getting Ready for BREAKTHROUGH: An Early Bird Conference, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, 10:00-11:45 a.m.
- 25-26** BREAKTHROUGH Convention: Sunday School for the 1990's - Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, Begins at 12:00 noon on the 25th and concludes at 4:15 p.m. on the 26th
- 26** Growth Spiral Conference - Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, 9:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

MARCH

- 10** Home Mission Day in Sunday School
- 23** Small Church Conference - William Carey College, 9:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

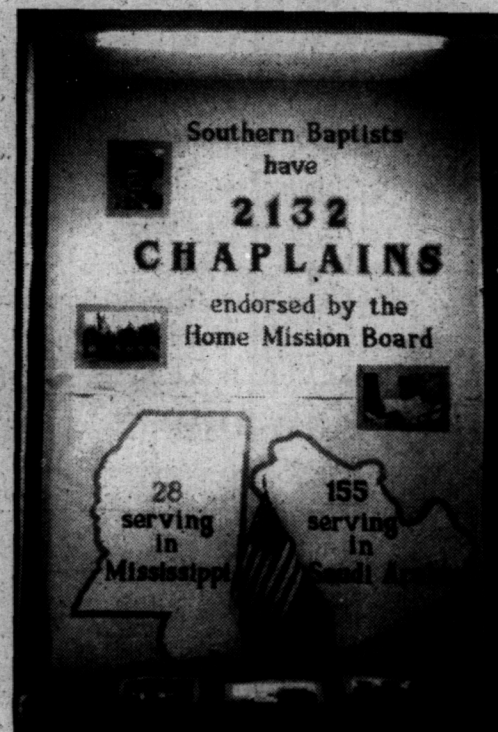
APRIL

- 5-6** Key Leader Seminar for Sunday School Directors - Baptist Building, Jackson, Begins 7:00 p.m. on the 5th and ends 3:00 p.m. the 6th
- 20-24** Lawrence Association Sunday School Revival -
- 22** Outreach Bible Study/Adult/Youth GrowthStarts - Clarksdale Baptist Church, Clarksdale and FBC, Starkville, 5:00-9:30 p.m.
- 23** Outreach Bible Study/Adult/Youth GrowthStarts - FBC, Cleveland and West Jackson Baptist Church, Tupelo 5:00-9:30 p.m.
- 24** Outreach Bible Study/Adult/Youth GrowthStarts - Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville and East End Baptist Church, Columbus 9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
- 25** Outreach Bible Study/Adult/Youth GrowthStarts - North Greenwood Baptist Church, Greenwood and Highland Baptist Church, Meridian, 5:00 - 9:30 p.m.
- 26-28** Monroe Association Sunday School Revival

Bible Drill Paks Ready March 1

Church and associational Bible Drill Paks will be ready for distribution after March 1. When ordering, please specify the number of "Children's Church Drill Paks," and/or "Youth Church Drill Paks."

Associational Drill Paks will be sent to the Associational Drill leaders upon request.



On Cutting Edge

The Cooperative Missions Department is updating the window display on Chaplains serving in Operation Desert Storm.

Southern Baptists now have 155 endorsed

Chaplains serving in the Persian Gulf according to Richard Brogan, consultant to Mississippi Baptist Chaplain's Association through the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Chaplains must pass the physical endurance requirements like any other soldier, but do not carry a weapon.



Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner to be part of WMU Annual Meeting

Members of Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship and other Baptist nurses are invited to attend a dinner during the WMU Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church, Jackson, March 18. The dinner begins at 5:00 in the dining room of the church. Guest speaker will be Marilyn Graves, missionary, homemaker, and nurse on furlough from Chile.

Cost for the dinner is \$7.50 per person. Reservations must be made by March 11. To make reservations, contact the state WMU office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.

Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting Entry Form Television and Radio Programs

CATEGORIES:

1. BEST PROGRAM
 - A. MISSIONS/EVANGELISM
 - B. CHURCH MUSICALS
 - C. HUMAN INTEREST
 - D. COMMUNITY SERVICE/SPORTS
2. BEST SPOT
3. CREATIVE USE OF TELEVISION OR RADIO

TO ENTER:

1. The program should have been aired prior to March 1, 1991.
2. Complete and submit entry form, along with video tape (1/2-inch VHS format only) or audio tape and registration fee of \$15.

Entries must be postmarked no later than **March 15.**

MBIB ENTRY FORM

Entry Title _____
 Category _____ Length of Program _____
 Entry Information
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Office phone _____ Home phone _____
 Name of Church or Organization _____

I CERTIFY THAT THE WORK SUBMITTED IN THIS ENTRY IS MY PERSONAL WORK OR WAS DONE UNDER MY DIRECT SUPERVISION.

Signature _____

ENTRIES SHOULD BE MAILED TO:
 Farrell Blankenship, MBIB Entry
 P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530
 or if using UPS
 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201



Oops!

In the last issue of HouseTops, there was a photo of five members of the New Church Expansion Committee which identified six persons. David McCubbin's photo was accidentally cropped out. Here is McCubbin's picture to make up for the omission.



REGISTRATION/TICKET ORDER FORM

Use this form to register for the entire event OR to order tickets for one or more individual evening concerts.

Order Description	Number Persons/Tickets	† Preferred Time 6:00 8:30	Price Each	Sub Total
Event (4 nights) March 11-14			\$50.00	
Monday March 11			\$15.00	
Tuesday March 12			\$15.00	
Wednesday March 13			\$15.00	
Thursday* March 14			*\$20.00	

*Thursday price includes souvenir copy of The Baptist Hymnal

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Contact Person (if group) _____

Nashville Hotel _____

If registering a group for the entire event, please attach a separate sheet listing the name of each person in the group.

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to Baptist Sunday School Board and mail with this form to: Baptist Sunday School Board, Box 24001, Nashville, TN 37203.

Orders must be received by February 20, 1991, to guarantee receipt of confirmation forms by return mail. Tickets must be picked up at Praising II Registration Center, Opryland Hotel, at least 1 hour prior to concert time.

† Preferred concert time cannot be guaranteed. Please indicate if concert time other than requested is acceptable: Yes _____; No, please return my payment _____

CHURCH ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL Saturday, February 23, 1991

Name of Church _____
 Address of Church-City _____ Zip _____
 Name of Minister of Music _____ Phone _____
 Name of Orchestra Director _____
 Name of Orchestra _____
 Selections:
 Title _____ Publisher _____ Number _____
 Title _____ Publisher _____ Number _____
 Title _____ Publisher _____ Number _____

Registration fee, \$1.00 per person. Number attending _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Make check payable to: **Mississippi Baptist Convention Board** and return your check along with this form to: Church Music Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING IS FEBRUARY 15, 1991

TIRED OF WATCHING FROM THE SIDELINES?!

then Volunteer Missions is for YOU!

Here are some current opportunities available through the Foreign Mission Board, SBC (Watch later issues for more opportunities):

Evangelism
 Preachers (5) Guyana April 13-29
Education
 English Teachers (10) Thailand Any time 1991 (6-8 weeks)

Construction
 Construction Team (35) Taiwan March 8-23
Business
 Pension Fund Consultant Indonesia March/April (2 weeks)

Music
 Instrument Repair Bahamas March, 1991 (2 weeks)

If you are interested in any of these projects, you can contact the Volunteer Department of the Foreign Mission Board at 1-800-999-3113.

Get off the sidelines and get involved!!

BREAKTHROUGH REACH TO WIN REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print or Type

Name _____

Telephone (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) _____

Church _____

Sunday School Responsibility & Age Group _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

Enclosed is my \$10.00 registration fee.

Make checks payable to
 Sunday School Department, MBCB
 \$10.00 includes lunch on Monday and conference materials.

CLIP AND MAIL TO:

Sunday School Department,
 P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

Across the state

Churches shield troops, families with prayer

By Anne W. McWilliams

Want to settle a fight?



"I'm going to sue the socks off of you!"

"Go ahead, buddy. See what good it does you!"

Lawsuits are usually caused by underlying problems like unforgiveness, anger, bitterness, greed, or pride. And when a lawsuit is over, no matter who wins, both sides are likely to be left with smoldering animosity.

Members of the Christian Conciliation Service are peacemakers who help churches, individuals, and organizations avoid lawsuits and settle their quarrels with an attitude of love.

The non-denominational CCS handles many kinds of conflicts — family, marital, neighborhood, real estate, contract, et cetera. They ask that each party help accept his or her responsibility for the problem and its solution. Their ministry is modeled on three steps suggested by Jesus in Matt. 18:15-17.

First, the person gets biblical counsel from someone in CCS. Then the person is to go to the other party in the dispute and privately try to work things out in a nice way.

For example, there was the case of the long-time housekeeper who stole several thousand dollars from her employers by forging checks. The man of the house talked with Frances Harrison, executive director, CCS of Central Mississippi. "We don't want to prosecute her for stealing," he said. "My wife and I are Christians, and we want to treat her kindly." They had already talked privately with the woman; they had dismissed her, but had agreed that she could pay the money back at \$100 a month. "Do you think we did the right thing?" he asked.

As the man talked, Frances listened, and prayed. Later, she called other volunteers and asked them to pray about the case.

When the housekeeper came to talk to her, Frances learned the woman was not a Christian; she told her how she could become one. Afterward, she did make a public profession of faith and joined a Baptist church, and has been repaying the money. If her employers had sent her to jail, her life would have been in ruins. Instead, through conciliation, she was led to a new life in Christ.

The second step is mediation. If the dispute can't be settled privately, then a team of volunteer peacemakers is called in. They might include a lawyer, a pastor, and a person with expertise in the area of dispute. They help the parties reach an agreement, through confession, repentance, and forgiveness.

A third step is arbitration. If mediation doesn't work, (it usually does), then arbitration is a possibility. God's guidance is sought; then the peacemakers hand out a decision which is legally binding on both parties.

In one case, a young man accepted a position with a college in the Jackson area. He resigned his job at another school, sold his house, and moved to Jackson at considerable expense. In the meantime, the Jackson college developed money problems and, it suddenly came to light, would not be able to pay for a post such as

the man had been hired for. There he was, no job and too late to sign a contract with another school for that year. Officials were only offering to compensate him for all his trouble with a sum equaling a quarter of his annual salary.

He walked into the CCS office at 3780 I-55 North, Suite 199-E, one Friday. About to explode with ill feelings about the college, he said he was a Christian and did not really want to sue the school, even though he no doubt had a "winnable" case.

"I'm to meet with a group at the school Monday," he told Frances. "What shall I say?"

"I'll pray for you all weekend," she said. "You pray, too, that the meeting will work out to your satisfaction."

In the meantime, she lined up three panel members to be ready if mediation were needed. However, in the Monday meeting the college offered the man an amount much larger than they had hitherto done. His bitterness toward them melted. Now he has another job elsewhere; so much was his faith in the college retored that he regularly sends it a monthly donation of \$125.00.

Sometimes a church member gets mad with another church member! Can you imagine that? Two strong lay leaders got furious with each other because one of their sons borrowed the other one's son's car and wrecked it in another state. Neither wanted his insurance to have to pay, because that would hike the premiums. A panel did have to be called for this, and resolved the hassle.

Several marriages have been put back together, in conciliation. Others have tried to patch up their disputes, but failed. One morning a rough, foul-mouthed man came storming into Frances' office, lambasting his ex-wife. Inside the thorny exterior lurked a tender spot for his kids — and his ex-wife would not let him see them. As he railed on and on about her, Frances only stopped him to ask one question: "What about you?"

It didn't appear that she could help him, but she prayed for him, and she made a call to the ex-wife.

Not long afterward, he returned, beaming, soft-spoken, a completely changed man.

"What in the world has happened to you?" she asked.

"One night after I came here, the Lord got me on my knees at 3 a.m. I knew I needed him." Because of a question a woman had asked him — "What about you?" — he had looked at himself and didn't like what he saw. He had called on God. Then God had done the rest. "Every day since, I have been able to see my children!"

This peacemaking service is part of a national association promoted by a group of Christian lawyers. In the state, only the executive director gets a salary. Clyde McLeod, assistant director, and the other peacemakers do not.

Conflict resolution training seminars will be held Feb. 20 and 21 and April 3 and 4 at Holiday Inn Medical Center, Jackson. For more information, or if you have a fight to settle, call 366-5497.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: even as I have loved you . . . (John 13:34).

"God Bless America!" The congregation at First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs, sings every Sunday morning. Then, holding hands, the people bow their heads in "Operation Desert Prayer."

At least 160 residents have been sent to the war zone from Crystal Springs, population 5,600. At Railroad Park, a tree is decorated with American flags and 160 yellow ribbons. The town's "one big family" was written up in Newsweek, Jan. 28, 1991.

All across Mississippi, as indeed all across the nation, churches are joining together in prayer and in the search for other ways to support their members in military service in Saudi Arabia, and their families.

"The men say it's easier when you know you've got the support of the people here, and their prayers," said Stan Papizan, a pilot in the Air National Guard who has flown at least 600 hours since last August — at 20 trips he stopped counting — back and forth to Arabia with men and supplies.

Stan is a member of First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs; his wife, Dot, is church secretary. He spoke at the church Jan. 15, Wednesday night before the war in the Gulf began. (He had been in Arabia Monday of that week.) He told his listeners: "There we all stay busy, but if anyone has time to stop and meditate, the mind turns to home. We check the time difference and try to think if the people might be gathered together at this time praying for us."

"Since Mildred Tillson, the church's WMU director, has a son in Saudi," said the pastor, Joel Haire, "this has given us a real Mid-East missions interest and emphasis."

Papizan has been flying military planes since 1963 — part-time before last August. One of his and Dot's three sons is in the Air Force, stationed in Germany. That one's twin was in the Air Force, but is out now. The youngest boy is in high school.

"Our church has shown compassion for Dot and the other military wives," said Haire.

Dot agreed: "Any problem I've had I've felt the church would understand and try to help."

Haire continued, "When we encircle the military family members and pray for them, that is a warm, sweet time. I really think it has drawn the church closer together."

This prayer time for troops and families takes place on Wednesday and Sunday nights. WMU members, as well as all church members, have been encouraged to pray each morning at 9. The women also read 2 Chronicles 7:14 daily.

The mailbox is another means of support. Baptist Women and Acteens have written to the troops. Acteens, Mission Friends, and GAs have made Valentines for them and mailed them, along with bookmarks, gum, and candy. Sunday School classes have sent cards, letters, and Valentines. WMU has sent cookies and stocking stuffers (before Christmas). Letters, in return, from Arabia have been read in the church.

Rankin County Baptists are offering help through their Crossroads Counseling Center, Perry Sanderford, counselor. This lends a hand to those who need to share their separation anxiety and grief. A support group met at Pearson Church on Feb. 4 and



At First Church, Crystal Springs, Joel Haire, pastor, left, talks with Stan Papizan, pilot for the Air National Guard, and Stan's wife, Dot, who is the church secretary. They are examining some of the Valentines their fellow church members are sending to military members in Saudi Arabia.

will continue to meet on Monday nights (for more information, call 939-6634).

Where military families need food, clothing, or help with electric bills, Rankin County WMU members, in five area zones, are coordinating an effort to meet those needs. They are working with Mississippi Food Network. Also, churches in Florence and Richland have their own food and clothing ministry. Crossgates, Pearson, and McLaurin Heights have been posting names of military personnel for special prayer.

In another area, at First Church, Starkville, the congregation each Sunday morning pauses for a "Military Moment," when one name of a serviceman or woman is read. Later in the service, the person leading the offertory prayer also prays for that individual. Before Christmas, the church sent food supplies to Saudi.

Near Camp Shelby, at Pineview Church, special prayer meetings for the troops have drawn large numbers. From Hattiesburg, Operation Cookie Lift sent many boxes of cookies via Jackson-based planes until they were asked to stop. A legal counseling service is offered at the National Guard Armory.

Grace Temple, a non-denominational church in Hattiesburg, has launched Operation Prayer Shield, to encourage state-wide prayer support for the troops and their families. The church has opened a toll-free number

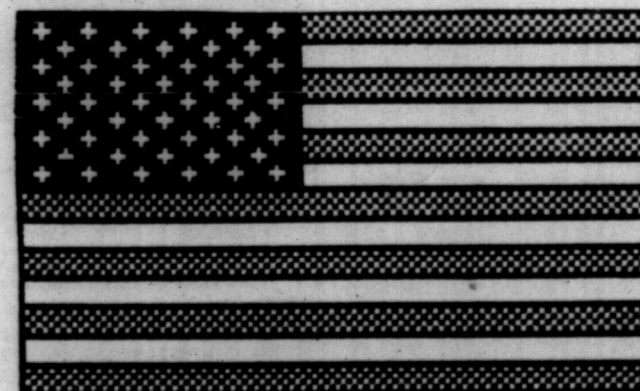
for the people of Mississippi to call in, 24 hours a day, names of friends and relatives who are involved in the crisis. They place the names on a master list and send them to each participating church, for prayer. For more information, call 264-0593.

Hattiesburg churches have enlisted pen pals to write to the troops, and so has First Church, Clinton, with names on a church bulletin board. Morrison Heights, Clinton, keeps a list of its military in its Intercessory Prayer Room. Its benevolence fund is available for military families who need and wish to apply. Wildwood Church, Clinton, has a Desert Relief Fund to help provide for material needs for military members' families.

Pineview Church, Clinton, has been the site of support group meetings for the Clinton area. A special night of prayer was held on Jan. 14 and again on Feb. 2, when support group and entire community were invited. On Dec. 23, this church had a special speaker system set up so that one of its members in Saudi Arabia could speak at the worship service by telephone.

First, Grenada, has on display a prayer chart, listing names of all military men in the community.

As Stan Papizan pointed out, "What's different about the Mid-East fighting force is that it is an all-volunteer force. They are there to get the job done, and it lifts their spirits to know they have support and prayers back home."



Just for the Record



Susan Dunn (left) and Rachelle Dunn (right) were crowned Acteen Queens during a recognition service held recently at New Prospect Church, Brookhaven. The girls had to complete 17 steps in the Studiact workbook in four categories to be crowned a queen. The categories include: Mission Study, Mission Action and Personal Witnessing, Mission Support, and Mission Organization. The theme of the service was "A Light in the Darkness."

Performing festival to be held in Jackson

A Christian Performing Festival is scheduled Feb. 15-16 at Calvary Church, Jackson. The drama conference will begin on Friday evening with a dinner theater at 6:30. Dinner tickets are \$6 each.

Sessions to learn clowning, puppetry, and dramatic arts begin at 8 p.m. Performances by Believer Artists are scheduled for 9. The Believer Artists include puppets, drama, music, and clowns.

The Saturday conference will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a light breakfast and continue until 2:15. The \$15 fee includes t-shirt, breakfast, and lunch.

Two features on Saturday include open performance by local drama groups who wish to be judged and a dramatic worship service at 2:15. For more information contact Robin Nichols, of the Discipleship Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 968-3800.



On Sunday, Jan. 20, New Harmony Church, Philadelphia, worshiped in a chapel provided by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Their church building was destroyed by fire during the Christmas holidays. The Cooperative Missions Department serves as staff to the New Church Expansion Committee of the Convention Board, which has responsibility for the placing of the chapels. Charles McCollum is the pastor of New Harmony.

Gene Dobbs, Administrative Assistant for Ministry, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, brought greetings to the New Harmony church family from Mississippi Baptists.



On Dec. 9, New Bethel Church, Neshoba Association, dedicated debt-free, a new educational annex, which includes five large classrooms, nursery, and restroom. The work, which was begun in the summer, was done mostly by church members, led by Dwight Rushing, pictured, left, a carpenter, who was chairman of the building committee.

The educational space behind the choir loft is also being remodeled and a New Life Baptistry installed. James E. Griffith, right, is pastor.

Calvary Church, Jackson, is combining with neighbor churches near downtown Jackson for Lenten Services in February and March. Each Wednesday from 12:10-12:50 the churches will meet for worship and prayer. A lite lunch will be served at a cost of \$2.50. The schedule is: Feb. 13 and 20, Capitol Street United Methodist Church, 531 W. Capitol St.; Feb. 27 and March 6, Central Presbyterian Church, 1100 W. Capitol St.; March 13 and 20, Calvary Baptist Church, 1300 W. Capitol St. Everyone is invited.

March 29, there will be a combined Good Friday service in the sanctuary of Calvary Church, 12:10-12:50. On that day no lunch will be served.

Lawrence Association sponsored a youth lock-in Jan. 25-26 at First Church, Brookhaven, with 129 youths and 22 adults. The event was held in the Family Life Center and lasted from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. John Setterlind and Joey Gatum from New Orleans Seminary led the event through music and drama.

Churches involved were Bethel, Hepzibah, Monticello, New Hope, New Zion, Oakvale, Topeka, and Providence.

Shirts were distributed with the logo "The Lock-In II" to all participants. The first lock-in was held last year at Tylertown.

Clarke County Association, reports Grady Crowell, director of missions, has given \$43,205.69 to the 1990-91 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The goal was \$40,000. These gifts include all the association's 29 churches, with a total of 4,475 resident members. This was the fourth largest such offering given, to date. The largest, given in 1985, was \$45,717. These gifts have steadily increased. In 1979, the association gave \$21,738 to the Lottie Moon Offering. Over the past nine years, the offering has seven times gone over \$40,000. Says Crowell, "I have observed in some years more will be reported on the Church Letters for Lottie Moon than the total reported to us, as some give after the reports are sent in to us."

The youth of Concord Church, Ackerman, presented a musical, "The Meaning of Christmas," on Dec. 23. Following the program a reception was held in honor of the youth. Ralph Cain is pastor.

Campolo to speak in "Valentine family celebration"

Anthony Campolo, professor in the Department of Sociology at Eastern College, St. Davids, Penn., will speak at the Jackson City Auditorium on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m., in "A Valentine Celebration of Family," sponsored as a public service by the Jackson Association of Life Underwriters.

Campolo is president of the Evangelical Association for the Promotion of Education, an organization involved in educational, medical, and economic programs in various Third World countries. He is also an associate pastor of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in West Philadelphia and directs a program serving urban youth.

Tickets, which are free, may be picked up at the MALU/JALU Office, 5475 Executive Place, Jackson, MS 39206.

CLASSIFIED

RATE 50¢ per word, \$5.00 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

FOR SALE: Twenty-one, 15' PADDED PEWS. Call (601) 534-2108; (601) 988-2141.

WATKINS PRODUCTS — If you would like a **FREE** catalog or if you are interested in becoming a Watkins' dealer, please call in Jackson area 944-1510; outside Jackson 1-800-487-1520.

FOR SALE 25 choir ROBES in excellent condition. Call (601) 939-2975.

Aluminum Products for your Church...
• STEEPLES • COLUMNS
• CUPOLAS • CORNICES
• BELL TOWERS • LOWERS
• CROSSES • BALUSTRADES
• EXTERIOR BULLETIN BOARDS

CAMPBELLVILLE INDUSTRIES 800-626-0350
P.O. BOX 278 - J (KY) 502-465-8135
CAMPBELLVILLE, KENTUCKY 42718

Capsules

SOUTHERN SEMINARY will have a **LAY BIBLE CONFERENCE**, May 17-18, on campus. The theme is "The Teachings of Jesus" and the faculty will include James L. Blevins, Alan Culpepper, David D'Amico, Raymond Bailey, Harold Songer, and Phil Landgrave. Registration fee is \$65 per person. Early registration prior to Feb. 22 will receive a reduced rate at \$50 per person. To register, call 1-800-626-5525, or write Edgar Hatfield at Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Ky., 40280.

TWELVE AMERICAN soliders were baptized in the desert in Saudi Arabia on Christmas Eve, 1990. One group of engineers dug a hole in the sand; another group provided and installed a liner to hold the water; a chemical unit heated the water; and a support unit set up a tarp used for dressing rooms.

HEADQUARTERS

FOR ALL TYPES OF
School & Church Furniture

• Complete stock of chairs, tables, desks and furnishings for Classroom, Library, Sunday School, Auditorium, Cafeteria and every School and Church use.

EVERYTHING FOR
THE SCHOOL
AND CHURCH

MISSISSIPPI
School Supply Co.
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

Southeastern Conference

ON THE

Preaching Mission of the Church

February 20-24, 1991

MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

2525 RAINBOW DRIVE • GADSDEN, ALABAMA 35901



DR. STEPHEN F.
OLFORD



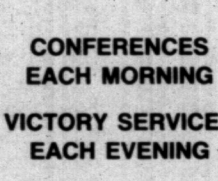
DR. CARL F. H.
HENRY



REV. PATRICK
KOH



RON AND PATRICIA
OWENS



DR. WILLIAM L.
PROBASCO

CONFERENCES
EACH MORNING
VICTORY SERVICES
EACH EVENING

Phone or Write for Registration Packet
(205) 442-3550

Senior
Citizens

Are You Unhappy With
Your Medicare Supplement?

New Premiums?
Less Benefits?
Slow Claim Payments?

It's Time To Talk To

Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

Medi-Flex Lets You
CHOOSE What's Best For You
Medi-Flex pays ALL Medicare eligible
expenses not paid by Medicare

Call: **982-3027**

PMA-154

Or Mail The Coupon Below To:

E. B. Martin

930 Buckley Drive, Jackson, MS 39206

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ PMA-154

Staff changes

Clarksdale Church, Clarksdale, announces the arrival of its new pastor, Carl M. White, effective Jan. 13.



White

White goes to Clarksdale from Ingomar Church, New Albany, where he served as pastor since 1984. Prior to that he was pastor of First Church, Sumner. White completed his doctor of ministry degree at Southern Seminary in May of 1990. He received the master of divinity degree from Southern, and the bachelor of arts from University of Southern Mississippi.

Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, has called Timothy Drane as minister of education and administration, effective Jan. 6. Drane is moving from First Church, Jennings, La. A native of Ackerman, he received his education from William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary.

Harmony Church, Crystal Springs, has called Clark Stewart as pastor. Stewart goes to Harmony Church from Tampa, Fla.

Robert Clark is the new pastor at Berea Church, North Delta Association. A native of Memphis, he is a student at Mid-America.

Richard Sellers has resigned the pastorate of Oakland Church, Oakland, to become the pastor of the Eighth Avenue Church, Meridian. He and his family moved into the pastorium on Jan. 8.

Dry Creek Church, Florence, has called Susan Clark of Jackson as minister of music, effective Jan. 20. Her previous places of service are Oakdale Church, Brandon, and Eastside Church, Pearl. She received her education at Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary.

Pilgrims Rest Church, Batesville, has called George D. (Billy) Credille as pastor, effective Nov. 25, 1990. A native of Belmont, he received his education at Mississippi State University. His previous place of service is Bethlehem Church, Tishomingo Association.

Rick Spencer has resigned as director of missions in Monroe Baptist Association to accept the position of associate pastor and minister of education at First Church, Minden, La.; effective in early February.

Names in the news

Roger F. Johns, pastor of Grays Creek Church, Hernando, will retire after 32 years in the pastorate. A reception will be held at the church in his honor Sunday, Feb. 10, from 2-4 p.m. Johns will be pastor emeritus at Grays Creek Church after his retirement.

James Blackwood, winner of nine Grammy awards and five Dove awards, will be presented in concert by the Church of Love at First Church, Vicksburg, March 2, 7 p.m.

Tickets are available for \$10, adults, and \$5, children. For further information, contact Carter Gibson, Rt. 10, Box 349-C, Vicksburg, MS 39180, or call 634-8656.

Larry Black, minister of music at First Church, Jackson, led a seminar on music ministry organization and administration during the recent 15th Annual Church Music Symposium at New Orleans Seminary. Nearly 70 people attended the event featuring music reviews of new sacred choral octavos from more than 40 publishers throughout the world.



Black

Revival dates

Corinth Church, Heidelberg: Feb. 10-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Richard White of Pensacola, Fla., evangelist; White has pastored churches in Mississippi; James K. Taylor, pastor.

Holly Bluff Church (Yazoo): Feb. 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Glenn Davis, First Church, Sumrall, evangelist; Bill Martin, Oak Grove Church (Yazoo), music; Davie S. Guess, pastor.

Friendship Church, Aberdeen; Feb. 22-24; evangelist, Paul Jones; music evangelist, Hubert Greer; Todd Bowen, pastor.

Howard Aultman was honored Dec. 16 at First Church, Columbia. He was named pastor emeritus, the first former pastor of the church to be so named. J. Roy McComb, present pastor, presented a special plaque. Aultman's son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Aultman of New Orleans, and his daughter, Eva Hart of Jackson, presented special music. Landrum P. Leavell, president of New Orleans Seminary, preached. Aultman, born in 1914 in Lamar County, was pastor in Columbia 1958-76.

Church weekday conference planned

Bob Couch, church weekday consultant with the Sunday School Board, will be a featured program leader for a conference in Jackson, March 2.

The meeting will be a Church Weekday Education Clinic and will take place at First Church, Jackson, beginning at 9 a.m. after an 8:30 registration period. It will conclude at 3:30.

Sessions include curriculum overviews for each age group plus special interest conferences.

Topics include "Dealing with Aggressive Behavior," "Building Self-Esteem in Children and Parents," "New State Licensing Regulations," and "How to Use the Bible with Preschoolers."

Pre-registration is required along with the \$15 fee to cover the cost of materials and lunch. For more information and a registration form, phone the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at 968-3800.

Churches adopt expanded annuity plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the January 10 issue of the Baptist Record: Covington: Mt. Horeb; Humphreys: Silver City; Jackson: Unity; Lauderdale: Toomsaba; Leake: Midway; Lebanon: Beacon; Rankin: Crossview; Union County: Blue Springs; and Warren: Woodlawn.

Media library conferences focus on Bible study support

NASHVILLE — Practical ways for church media libraries to support individual and group Bible study will be featured during Church Media Library Leadership Conferences this summer.

Sessions at Ridgecrest (N.C.) are July 13-19 and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, Aug. 3-9.

As a part of a five-year emphasis, FOCUS 95, this year's theme "Media

Libraries... Focus on Bible Study" will be highlighted in conferences and general sessions throughout the week.

Reservations may be made Feb. 1 or later by writing Reservations, Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Box 8, Glorieta, N.M. 87535 or Reservations, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C. 28770.

Thursday, February 7, 1991

Missionary news

Sam and Ginny Cannata, missionaries, moved Feb. 1 from Zanzibar, Tanzania, East Africa, to Ethiopia. Their new address is P. O. Box 5539, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRIES
STEEPLES-CROSSES
WATER HEATERS
FREE COLORED BROCHURE
LITTLE GIANT MANUFACTURING CO.
Box 518 / Orange, Texas 77630
DIAL TOLL FREE 1-800-231-6035

GET MORE FOR YOUR MONEY WITH

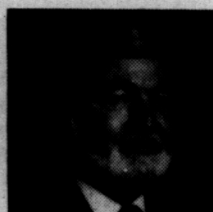


PREFERRED RISK MUTUAL
INSURANCE COMPANY

- ◆ In-House Claim Service
- ◆ No Fault Medical & Loss Of Income Protection
- ◆ No Depreciation On New Car For 90 Days
- ◆ 15% Premiere Discount For Violation & Accident-Free For 3 Years
- ◆ Special Rate For Nondrinkers And Nonsmokers
- ◆ 20% Good Student Credits

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • HEALTH • CHURCH

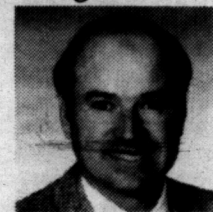
Contact Your Local Agent



MERIDIAN
Gene Bryan
483-9386



SOUTHAVEN
Gay Hudson
342-2034



HATTIESBURG
Bob Curtis
544-6112



PEARL
Andy Eaton
939-9300



MERIDIAN
Sandra Little
482-8868



JACKSON
Ruth Granger
371-1846



HATTIESBURG
Ronnie Hill
544-6112



PEARL
Linda Nowell
939-9300



COLUMBUS
Carol Craven
327-6896



GULFPORT
Kent Johnson
868-6800



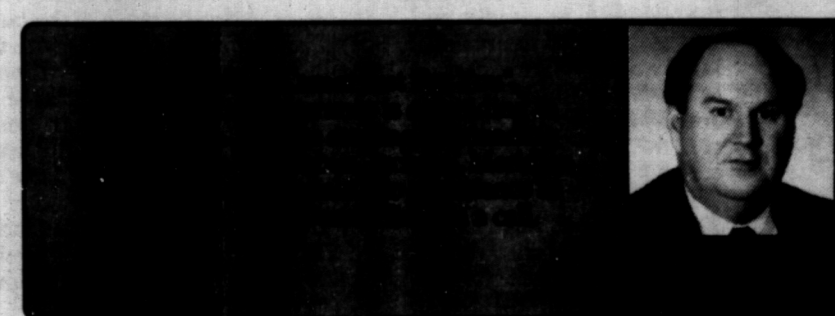
HATTIESBURG
Carey Smith
544-6112



NEW ALBANY
James Rhea
534-2108



TUPELO
Eddie Sullivan
844-4065



PREFERRED RISK MUTUAL

A Member of Preferred Risk Group

Home Office: West Des Moines, Iowa

America's nondrinkers insurance company!



Servanthood: the Christian's lifestyle

By Benny Still

John 13:1-5, 6-12, 13-17

In my father-in-law's home hangs a picture of Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Many times I have looked at that picture and thought of the many times my in-laws have followed the example set by our Lord. Now, I admit that I have never seen them wash anyone's feet per se, but I have observed them living out the servant's role in their ministry. This couple takes seriously the call of Jesus Christ to a life-style of servanthood.



Still

In verse 1 we see the depth of Jesus' love and concern for his followers by his willingness to serve them even during a time of personal crisis and tragedy. He was very much aware that his death was near. Here we see the "full extent of Jesus' love" for the disciples. Not only can we see the quality of that love, but we can also catch a glimpse of its enduring nature. Jesus' love is the never-ending, "forever and ever, Amen!" kind of love. Sometimes we face adverse circumstances in our lives that render us ineffective in our walk with the Lord. How we need to learn to exhibit a spirit of divine ser-

LIFE AND WORK

vanthood in the midst of our circumstances. The obstacles we face in life today are really no greater than those that people have been called upon to deal with throughout history; but our commitment to Christ in the midst of those circumstances is the measure by which the world looks at those of us who name the name of Christ.

The first four verses of this week's lesson really set the context for this entire unit of study about discipleship. Jesus is the divine Son of God. By virtue of that fact, he has the authority to teach his disciples how to live and to expect obedience from them. The teachings of Jesus as recorded here by John are of particular significance since they are the last words Jesus gave to his disciples before his death.

In the next section of our lesson, verses 7-12, our old friend, Peter, enters the scene. I can identify so very well with Peter. He always seemed to have his mouth in motion before his mind shifted into gear. Peter seemed to be amazed that Jesus was willing to do something for him personally. We, too, must realize that

many times we don't understand at the moment of our trial — or at the moment of our blessing — just what it is that the Lord is trying to show us. Peter seemed to have coined the cliché "never say never" in verse 8. Then in verse 9, he exemplified our common saying that "if a little is good, then more is bound to be better." The gist of Jesus' reply was that doing more than what is actually required is not always the best course to follow. How we need to get the message that, in being busy just for the sake of being busy, we are often in danger of failing to do what was simply required of us in the first place. Jesus Christ's life-style of service is an example we believers are to follow.

I came across this illustration while preparing a sermon recently. At the outset, the actions described may seem tasteless, but the message of servanthood shines through. A reporter went to Calcutta to observe the work of Mother Teresa. He saw how people who were close to death were taken off the streets and given comfort during their final days. One lady was seen helping a woman who was blind. The woman's eyes were full of maggots. Mother Teresa came along and said, "No, that's not the way to do it. Like this." And with that, she took the woman and put her arm around her, pulling her close to her face. One by one, she lovingly plucked the maggots from the woman's eyes. The reporter

observed all of this, went up to Mother Teresa and asked, "How could you do that?" She replied, "It was easy. When I looked at the woman, I saw Jesus." Think of the love we would show if we were to see Jesus in the people around us who need our help. Jesus taught us by his own example how to assume the servant role. The fellowship of Christ compels us to put our love into action. In 1 John 3:18, these words are recorded: "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." Words and talk mean little if love is not shown by our deeds.

In the past few weeks we have realized the impact of verses 13-17. If Jesus' words are valid for our contemporary life-styles, (and I believe that they are), my family and I can bear witness that the folks at the Woodville Church and Fort Adams Mission, Woodville; and the folks at Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall, are prime examples of believers who serve one another in the true spirit of Christ. As we have left the former and moved to the latter, we have witnessed the sense of fulfillment that comes from a life-style of Christian service to others. Read this week's scripture passage again and see if you can catch a glimpse of the true spirit of servanthood as shown by the Master.

Still is pastor, Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall.

God cares, and will answer our prayers

By Ruth N. Allen

Luke 11:5-13

Jesus withdrew from the crowds to pray. When he had ceased praying, one of his disciples requested, "Lord, teach us to pray, as



Allen

John taught his disciples to pray" (Luke 11:1). Jesus instructed his disciples to follow the example of the "Lord's Prayer," commonly called the "Model Prayer." Four elements are included in this prayer: (1) adoration, (2) thanksgiving, (3) petition, and (4) confession.

Jesus added an often-overlooked thought concerning prayer. A person has to believe in the power of God. One must believe God cares, regardless of how prayer is answered. Prayers are basically answered one of three ways: "yes," "no," and "wait awhile." Consequently, a "wait awhile" is often interpreted as being unanswered prayer. "Unanswered prayer" often questions God's care and concern for people. This is an unfair assessment of God's caring and his ability to

UNIFORM

answer prayer. God's care and concern are the bases for answered prayer. The fact of his caring distinguishes our God from lifeless idols.

The chorus of the old hymn, "Does Jesus Care?" effectively answers the question. "Oh, yes, he cares, I know he cares. His heart is touched with my grief. Though the days be weary, the long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares." The hymn writer expresses confidence, which comes through experience.

Jesus' purpose in this parable is to give us assurance God cares and will answer prayer. To clarify this assurance, he compares, in ascending order, a friend, a father, and our heavenly father. The friend represents someone who can meet another's needs. He does not respond because of the predicament of a needy friend. The archaic definition of "importunity" applies here, which is "to urgently beg or request." He responded favorably to his friend because of his urgent request for assistance.

Jesus' analogy ascends to the next level of comparison, which involves a son's requests. A caring father would never regard requests for good things as an occasion to give evil things. The caring father not only gives the child what he requests, but also what he needs.

Jesus moved his comparison from the human level to the divine. He indicates the fault lies not with God but with the individual who fails to be persistent in prayer. The disciples were told by Jesus to "ask, seek, and knock" (vss. 9-10). These three steps are necessary in achieving success in prayer. To draw a human parallel, one may ask for the home address of another. An effort may be made to go to the address. However, contact is not made until one goes to the door and knocks. When the door opens and you see the one whom you seek, you have accomplished a successful contact. There are some who have never had the door opened to them because they never ask, seek, or knock with consistency.

If an earthly father will give good gifts to his child, how much more so will the heavenly Father? This factor strengthens the concept of the caring God. He ultimately wants his children to have good gifts. Good gifts are prom-

ised throughout his Word, consequently, many of God's blessings are forfeited because we refuse to meet his conditions for successful prayer. Failure to have blessings of God must never be attributed to the lack of his caring.

Verse 13 assures us of God's grace in giving his children his Holy Spirit. Possession of the Holy Spirit makes a difference in our lives; we are able to have all needs met because God cares for us. Therefore, all God's children should take comfort in this fact.

There are times when prayers seem to go unanswered. The presence of the Holy Spirit gives us the persistence necessary to achieve success in praying as well as faith which is necessary for prayer. It is faith which sustains, and all faith comes from the Holy Spirit.

The Bible has numerous references to God's children "coming into his presence with boldness." "Let us, therefore, come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16). May the study of this parable assist you in claiming the promise to be heard by God in times of need, because God does care for you.

Allen of Jackson is the wife of Judd Allen, pastor of Ogden Church, Bentonla.

Jesus makes his impact on any life open to him

By Jerry Vardaman

Luke 18:15-19:27

Francis Thomson, a British poet who was overtaken with a drug habit, spoke of God as the "Hound of Heaven." He was describing



Vardaman

God's relentless pursuit of lost and undone people, like himself. This quest of God for the needy, the lost, and the helpless, is vividly portrayed in those sections of Luke which we are fortunate to study this Sunday.

Jesus' impact on children (18:15-17):

Note that Jesus loved children. Even in the time of Jesus, we find parents exposing and forsaking their unwanted children, and killing unwanted girls in particular. Children never had a greater friend than Jesus, and one of the greatest spectacles any of us can observe is to see a child come forward and trust life and soul to Jesus. I was in a church on one occasion when a child of about 10 years of age came forward and said, "The devil is in my heart and I can't get him out." What the child can not do, Jesus can.

Jesus' impact on an empty life (rich young ruler, 18:18-30):

We are impressed to believe that the young ruler who came to Jesus had everything which

could be bought in his day. He had everything except joy and fellowship with God, which could not be bought, and he was conscious of his emptiness. But Jesus did not change the conditions for his salvation because of the lad's wealth. All of us have to come to Jesus with total commitment, and his terms of salvation are clear — "Follow me." In Dante's Divine Inferno, this young ruler is pictured as being eternally separated from God, and Dante calls his mistake the Great Refusal. Luke's Gospel likely was written over 30 years after Jesus' earthly ministry, and probably this lad never learned the full impact that Jesus could have made in his life, had he faithfully followed Jesus as was required. The lad could not save himself by keeping the law, but only by following Jesus.

Jesus' impact on Bar Timaeus (18:35-43):

Luke does not tell us the name of the blind man whom Jesus healed at Jericho, but Moses does (10:46-52). Mark contrasts the faith of Bar Timaeus with the disbelief of the rich young ruler since Bar Timaeus is said to have forsaken all and followed Jesus (vs. 52). Luke adds an insight which Mark omits. Jesus' impact on Bar Timaeus caused an impact on others: "... and all of the people when they saw it, gave

praise unto God."

This blind man whom Jesus healed had no social status. He was normally regarded as a sinner, otherwise a righteous God would not let him suffer in his blindness. It is remarkable how God can take the wretched, or the weak, or the wasted, and make a difference in their lives. Cf. I Cor. 26-31.

In the Confessions of Augustine we have an interesting account on how Augustine, the brilliant orator, was led step by step to Christ. God saved two of his uneducated friends, and this revealed a great truth to Augustine. Although he was educated and brilliant, God saved two unimportant people as Augustine regarded them. Yet God was able to speak to the more brilliant Augustine by this event and reveal his need of Christ to him. Also, a little girl, who was likely playing some child's game, kept saying, "Take up and read," ("Tolle, Lege") in a garden next to his house while he was searching for spiritual light. He interpreted this as God trying to say to him that he needed to search the Scriptures, so he picked up Paul's letters and found direction by reading the book of Romans (esp. 13:13) and was led to faith in Christ. The example of Bar Timaeus speaks to all of us about how God can take a weak person who is faithful to him and shake a city like Jericho and, indeed, the entire world.

Jesus' impact on Zacchaeus (19:1-10):

Just as the book of Joshua describes a great sinner at Jericho — Rahab the harlot — who

was brought into the family of faith (Matt. 1:5), Luke describes how the most wretched person of Jericho, as Jews considered him (Zacchaeus), was likewise brought into the family of faith. In Philo's Special Laws (written shortly before his death about A.D. 40) we hear of the treachery of tax collectors in Jesus' day. They would make the relatives go to jail if their loved ones fled from their tax indebtedness, or they would torture victims to make them pay what they considered they owed for taxes.

In other words, when Jesus led Zacchaeus to light and life, it was like Jesus converting a harlot or murderer today. But this same Jesus still makes his impact on any life open to him, willing to take him and his way as one's rule of faith.

Jesus' impact on your future (19:11-27):

We need to comment briefly on the Parable of the Pounds. When Jesus left Jericho, he walked directly in front of a palace which Archelaus (see Mt. 2:22) had constructed there. The parable is about that ruler: his citizens hated him, and only pressure made them serve him. When (3 B.C.?) Archelaus returned with power from Rome, he put to death all who opposed him. Jesus will one day come again and will judge all of us, though not with unfairness as did Archelaus. We are always to remember that this same Jesus who ascended will come again to judge living and dead (Acts 1:11).

Vardaman is professor of archaeology, Mississippi State University.

Honor Roll of Churches

Each January we evaluate the cash gifts received in Village offices during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation it has become customary to list the Mississippi Baptist Churches in the descending order of their designated cash gifts. This evaluation and analysis has become known as the "Honor Roll of Churches." During 1990, 231 local churches gave \$1,000.00 or more to the ministry of The Baptist Children's Village. According to our records, those "top 231 churches" were:

THE VILLAGE VIEW

Baptist Children's Village

Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

**P. O. Box 27,
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242**



RANK	CHURCH NAME AND CITY	1990							
1.	First Baptist Church, Water Valley	25366.30	89.	Macedonia Baptist Church, Brookhaven	2042.17	177.	First Baptist Church, Tunica	1268.80	
2.	Forest Baptist Church, Forest	13280.35	90.	First Baptist Church, Brookhaven	2035.00	178.	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist, Crystal Springs	1263.00	
3.	Rolling Creek Baptist Church, Quitman	10102.45	91.	First Baptist Church, Calhoun City	2029.25	179.	Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Bruce	1250.00	
4.	Hillcrest Baptist Church, Jackson	10065.00	92.	Oak Forest Baptist Church, Jackson	2027.00	180.	Derma Baptist Church, Derma	1248.93	
5.	Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton	9256.01	93.	West Union Baptist Church, Carriere	2001.16	181.	First Baptist Church, Marks	1248.46	
6.	Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson	8919.32	94.	Indian Springs Baptist, Hattiesburg	2000.00	182.	Horseshoe Baptist Church, Tchula	1248.00	
7.	First Baptist Church, Booneville	8324.04	95.	Calvary Baptist Church, Greenwood	1976.00	183.	Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	1245.71	
8.	First Baptist Church, Jackson	7324.02	96.	Broadway Baptist Church, Olive Branch	1970.42	184.	Big Creek Baptist Church, Big Creek	1243.60	
9.	Raymond Baptist Church, Raymond	7115.00	97.	First Baptist Church, Greenwood	1965.95	185.	Daniel Memorial Baptist Church, Jackson	1235.00	
10.	First Baptist Church, Greenville	5546.66	98.	Navilla Baptist Church, McComb	1891.70	186.	Trinity Baptist Church, Vicksburg	1225.00	
11.	First Baptist Church, Brandon	5503.97	99.	Hurricane Creek Baptist, Sandy Hook	1889.63	187.	Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Gulfport	1220.00	
12.	First Baptist Church, Indianola	5465.50	100.	East Fork Baptist Church, Smithdale	1884.00	188.	Georgetown Baptist Church, Georgetown	1216.36	
13.	First Baptist Church, Columbus	5463.58	101.	Woodland Hills Baptist Church, Jackson	1857.14	189.	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Taylorsville	1215.00	
14.	Hollandale Baptist Church, Hollandale	5194.00	102.	Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus	1845.00	190.	Evergreen Baptist Church, Louisville	1215.00	
15.	First Baptist Church, Louisville	5192.16	103.	First Baptist Church, Coffeeville	1825.00	191.	West Baptist Church, West	1200.00	
16.	Mount Zion Baptist-Tate, Independence	5002.00	104.	Rienzi Baptist Church, Rienzi	1814.52	192.	Trinity Baptist Church, Fulton	1200.00	
17.	Briar Hill Baptist Church, Florence	4954.00	105.	Noxapater Baptist Church, Noxapater	1810.72	193.	Mount Zion Baptist Church, Florence	1200.00	
18.	North Greenwood Baptist, Greenwood	4657.79	106.	First Baptist Church, West Point	1789.21	194.	Sallis Baptist Church, Sallis	1200.00	
19.	First Baptist Church, Sardis	4566.73	107.	New Palestine Baptist Church, Picayune	1774.81	195.	New Hope Baptist Church, Meridian	1194.00	
20.	Ingomar Baptist Church, New Albany	4528.00	108.	Indian Springs Baptist Church, Laurel	1772.32	196.	Arm Baptist Church, Silver Creek	1190.30	
21.	First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs	4527.40	109.	Pearson Baptist Church, Pearl	1715.75	197.	First Baptist Church, Leland	1188.00	
22.	Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson	4473.89	110.	Holcomb Baptist Church, Holcomb	1703.31	198.	First Baptist Church, Waynesboro	1182.25	
23.	First Baptist Church, Laurel	4454.32	111.	First Baptist Church, Natchez	1699.00	199.	Friendship Baptist Church, Sturgis	1180.99	
24.	Williamsville Baptist Church, Kosciusko	4370.00	112.	Shiloh Baptist Church, Big Creek	1681.29	200.	Bellevue Baptist Church, Shelby	1166.00	
25.	First Baptist Church, Clinton	4360.33	113.	Emmanuel Baptist Church, Greenville	1671.92	201.	Enon Baptist Church, Jayess	1163.00	
26.	Liberty Baptist Church, Liberty	4143.22	114.	Washington Baptist Church, Washington	1654.76	202.	Philadelphia Baptist Church, Leland	1156.23	
27.	First Baptist Church, Vicksburg	4123.71	115.	Ephesus Baptist Church, Forest	1650.00	203.	First Baptist Church, Poplarville	1155.85	
28.	First Baptist Church, Amory	3810.00	116.	East Philadelphia Baptist, Philadelphia	1640.62	204.	Calvary Baptist Church, Belmont	1153.05	
29.	Grays Creek Baptist Church, Hernando	3701.02	117.	Beulah Baptist Church, Bolton	1624.00	205.	Pine Bluff Baptist Church, Pheba	1150.00	
30.	First Baptist Church, Grenada	3509.00	118.	Bethlehem Baptist Church, Pinola	1608.85	206.	Beulah Baptist Church, Myrtle	1142.00	
31.	Midway Baptist Church, Meridian	3500.00	119.	Northside Baptist Church, Clinton	1605.00	207.	Pinelake Baptist Church, Brandon	1140.00	
32.	Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson	3495.00	120.	Topeka Baptist Church, Jayess	1601.87	208.	Salem Baptist Church, Raymond	1135.00	
33.	Highland Baptist Church, Meridian	3430.00	121.	Moak's Creek Baptist, Bogue Chitto	1590.00	209.	Plainway Baptist Church, Laurel	1131.42	
34.	Tylertown Baptist Church, Tylertown	3420.12	122.	Bethel Baptist Church, Poplarville	1589.18	210.	First Baptist Church, Taylorsville	1120.00	
35.	First Baptist Church, Coldwater	3410.00	123.	Cairo Baptist Church, Ecru	1585.33	211.	Pheba Baptist Church, Pheba	1120.00	
36.	First Baptist Church, Winona	3382.00	124.	Morgan Chapel Baptist Church, Sturgis	1580.00	212.	Macedonia Baptist Church, Myrtle	1114.00	
37.	Mantee Baptist Church, Mantee	3310.00	125.	First Baptist Church, Kosciusko	1567.71	213.	Edgeworth Baptist Church, Eupora	1110.00	
38.	Meadville Baptist Church, Meadville	3135.00	126.	Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale	1565.22	214.	Leaf Baptist Church, Leaf	1100.00	
39.	First Baptist Church, Gulfport	3130.10	127.	First Baptist Church, Mendenhall	1564.25	215.	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Quitman	1097.73	
40.	First Baptist Church, Magee	3062.00	128.	Rock Hill Baptist Church, Brandon	1560.34	216.	Wheeler Grove Baptist Church, Corinth	1079.29	
41.	Northminster Baptist Church, Jackson	3007.25	129.	Ingram Baptist Church, Baldwin	1559.08	217.	Success Baptist Church, Saucier	1077.74	
42.	Northwest Baptist Association, Hernando	3000.00	130.	Unity Baptist Church, Picayune	1556.74	218.	Central Baptist Church, McNeill	1077.42	
43.	West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo	3000.00	131.	First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	1555.00	219.	Belden Baptist Church, Belden	1067.00	
44.	Fellowship Baptist Church, Meridian	2984.19	132.	Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven	1544.25	220.	Morgantown Baptist Church, Natchez	1060.08	
45.	First Baptist Church, Ripley	2941.18	133.	Edna Baptist Church, Columbia	1533.45	221.	Russell Baptist Church, Meridian	1048.58	
46.	Learned Baptist Church, Learned	2905.00	134.	Union Baptist Church, Bailey	1527.75	222.	New Providence Baptist Church, Pittsboro	1047.83	
47.	First Baptist Church, Eupora	2902.02	135.	Bethlehem Baptist Church, Forkville	1525.00	223.	Immanuel Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	1045.00	
48.	Mount Moriah Baptist, Bogue Chitto	2897.40	136.	Flora Baptist Church, Flora	1521.00	224.	Slayden Baptist Church, Lamar	1044.00	
49.	Liberty Baptist Church, New Albany	2829.00	137.	Ebenezer Baptist Church, Centreville	1518.16	225.	Centreville Baptist Church, Centreville	1043.00	
50.	State Boulevard Baptist Church, Meridian	2761.32	138.	Parkway Baptist Church, Kosciusko	1516.27	226.	Immanuel Baptist Church, Vicksburg	1038.94	
51.	First Baptist Church, Baldwin	2667.00	139.	Pine Forest Baptist Church, Collinsville	1500.00	227.	Newhebron Baptist Church, Newhebron	1035.00	
52.	First Baptist Church, McComb	2666.06	140.	Park Place Baptist Church, Brandon	1500.00	228.	Mount Nebo Baptist Church, Collinsville	1029.33	
53.	Bethsaida Baptist Church, French Camp	2656.88	141.	Oakdale Baptist Church, Brandon	1500.00	229.	Seminary Baptist Church, Seminary	1005.00	
54.	North Winona Baptist Church, Winona	2655.21	142.	Old Silver Creek Baptist, Silver Creek	1499.56	230.	Ellistown Baptist Church, Blue Springs	1000.86	
55.	Sylvarena Baptist Church, Raleigh	2630.19	143.	Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Newton	1499.00	231.	Liberty Baptist Church, Toombsuba	1000.00	
56.	Society Hill Baptist Church, Oak Vale	2607.63	144.	Port Gibson Baptist Church, Port Gibson	1488.00				
57.	First Baptist Church, Richton	2575.95	145.	Pocahontas Baptist Church, Clinton	1485.02				
58.	New Harmony Baptist, Blue Springs	2572.02	146.	First Baptist Church, Meridian	1478.63				
59.	First Baptist Church, Hazlehurst	2532.99	147.	Calvary Baptist Church, Tupelo	1472.50				
60.	DeKalb Baptist Church, DeKalb	2505.75	148.	Gallman Baptist Church, Gallman	1462.15				
61.	Phalti Baptist Church, Prentiss	2501.89	149.	First Baptist Church, Carthage	1459.05				
62.	Calvary Baptist Church, Belzoni	2500.00	150.	First Baptist Church, Aberdeen	1432.00				
63.	Mount Horeb Baptist Church, Meridian	2491.13	151.	Second Baptist Church, Greenville	1431.00				
64.	Alexander Memorial Baptist, Hollandale	2475.39	152.	Midway Baptist Church, Jackson	1429.00				
65.	Bunker Hill Baptist Church, Columbia	2400.54	153.	Central Baptist Church, McComb	1426.00				
66.	Providence Baptist Church, Cleveland	2392.31	154.	Zion Hill Baptist Church, Liberty	1414.24				
67.	First Baptist Church, Union	2370.00	155.	Trinity First Baptist Church, Waynesboro	1413.39				
68.	Beulah Baptist Church, Decatur	2355.20	156.	Galilee Baptist Church, Gloster	1405.00				
69.	Gaston Baptist Church, Booneville	2330.17	157.	Gooden Lake Baptist Church, Belzoni	1396.78				
70.	Calvary Baptist Church, West Point	2321.92	158.	Madden Baptist Church, Madden	1383.44				
71.	Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson	2317.00	159.	First Baptist Church, Belmont	1376.00				
72.	Second Baptist Church, Indianola	2304.97	160.	Ackerman Baptist Church, Ackerman	1360.00				
73.	First Baptist Church, Itta Bena	2279.50	161.	Kolola Springs Baptist Church, Calcedonia	1360.00				
74.	First Baptist Church, Quitman	2253.00	162.	Providence Baptist Church, Meadville	1359.31				
75.	Tate Street Baptist Church, Corinth	2244.00	163.	Algoma Baptist Church, Algoma	1350.00				
76.	Shuqualak Baptist Church, Shuqualak	2210.00	164.	Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg	1347.00				
77.	Carmel Baptist Church, Meridian	2208.79	165.	Salem Baptist Church, Preston	1346.00				
78.	Scotland Baptist Church, Winona	2200.00	166.	Springfield Baptist Church, Morton	1340.00				
79.	First Baptist Church, Tupelo	2165.64	167.	First Baptist Church, Purvis	1327.50				
80.	Oakland Heights Baptist, Meridian	2140.50	168.	Goodwater Baptist Church, Magee	1327.25				
81.	Oak Grove Baptist Church, Mendenhall	2138.86	169.	First Baptist Church, Pascagoula	1320.25				
82.	First Baptist Church, Corinth	2130.01	170.	Mount Gilead Baptist Church, Meridian	1315.00				
83.	Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson	2129.48	171.	Anchor Baptist Church, Water Valley	1308.00				
84.	Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo	2107.00	172.	First Baptist Church, Leakesville	1304.00				
85.	Crowder Baptist Church, Crowder	2090.68	173.	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Dumas	1300.00				
86.	Grace Baptist Church, Philadelphia	2080.00	174.	First Baptist Church, Foxworth	1282.79				
87.	First Baptist Church, Charleston	2075.96	175.	Calvary Baptist Church, Cleveland	1275.00				
88.	Dry Creek Baptist Church, Mendenhall	2051.20	176.	Lexie Baptist Church, Tylertown	1272.37				

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Dec. 1, 1990-

Dec. 31, 1990

MEMORIALS

Mr. Leroy L. Hollis

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Flowers

Mrs. Leroy L. Hollis

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Flowers

Mrs. Narcissia Holmes

Mrs. J. P. Maxwell Smith

Harvey Honeycutt

Dr. & Mrs. Louie L. Coker

Buddy House

Mr. & Mrs. Dan W.

Southerland Jr.

Mrs. Ethel Howell

Mr. & Mrs. Donnie Ray &

Lea Moffett

Mr. James (Jack) Hughes

Mrs. Frances C. Simmons

Mrs. Josephine Hughes

Ruth SS, Second BC

Greenville

Mrs. Lillie Belle Hyatt

Ladies Sunday School, Little

Bahala BC

Mrs. Harold (Mary Louise)

Hydr

Mr. & Mrs. L. K. Bell

Kyle Robert Jackson

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Brewer

Mrs. Helen Connerly

Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Holloman

Joy SS, FBC Grenada

Mr. & Mrs. G. Wayne Smith

Mr. & Mrs. John E. Melton &

Family

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H.

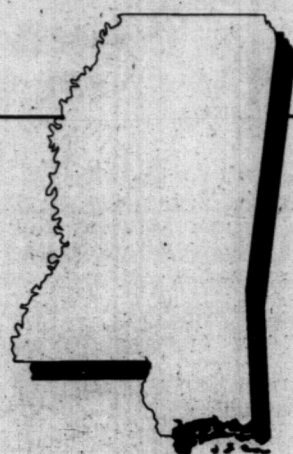
Hudson

Mr. & Mrs. Billie Bonner

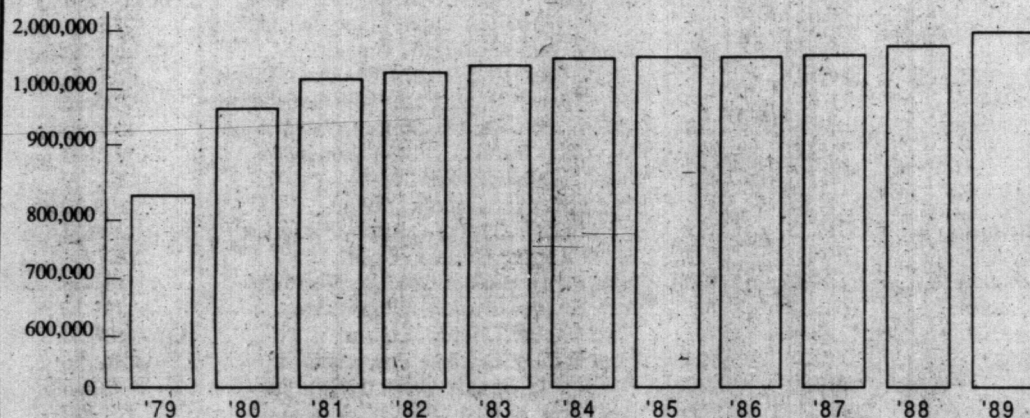
Mrs. Jack McClure

(To be continued)

MISSISSIPPI GIFTS TO THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING



Mississippi
Gifts to the
Annie Armstrong
Easter Offering
Annually for the
years 1979-1989



1979	836,285
1980	973,142
1981	1,114,587
1982	1,286,453
1983	1,351,224
1984	1,485,681
1985	1,537,898
1986	1,568,657
1987	1,768,825
1988	1,756,780
1989	1,852,965

Mississippi Baptists continue missionary barrel tradition

By Susan Todd

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Mississippi Baptists probably don't realize it, but the \$15.5 million they have given during the past 10 years to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering continues a tradition that began 109 years ago in a missionary barrel.

The annual offering is a modern-day version of home mission support which began when Annie Armstrong and the Baptist women of Baltimore, Md., filled barrels of clothing and food for missionaries and those they worked with.

Today, supporting the home missions work of the Southern Baptist Convention through prayer and giving is not just an effort of women like Annie Armstrong. Mississippi Baptists join in a conventionwide effort which involves men, women, teen-agers, and children.

This year, Southern Baptists will focus their attention on home missions March 3-10 during the annual observance of prayer and giving. The 1991 national goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$41 million.

But supporting home missions hasn't always been an annual, united effort.

It began in the spring of 1882 when the Levering Manual Labor School in the Creek Indian Nation in Oklahoma faced severe financial strains. The school, which had been started and operated by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, was not even a year old. When the school opened, the board had received help from two home mission societies in Baltimore, Md. Once again, they turned to the societies for help.

The appeal for 240 summer suits for the students went to the mission societies at Eutaw Place Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, Annie Armstrong, president of the Home Mission Society at Eutaw Place Baptist Church, recognized that the task was larger than the two societies could fulfill alone. What began as work for the two societies of women

expanded to include women from 14 area Baptist churches — eight white churches and six black churches.

In her biography, *Annie Armstrong: Dreamer in Action*, Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union executive Bobbie Sorrell described the scene: "Annie and the other women must have made an interesting picture as they gathered in church lecture halls to carefully fold and pack the suits in barrels for shipment to Indian Territory. This project generated great excitement, and more home mission societies formed as a result."

But the women's efforts didn't stop there. In May of the same year, Annie Armstrong capitalized on the home

missions interest of the women in the area. The outcome was the organization of the Woman's Baptist Home Mission Society of Maryland. The society's objective was "cooperating with the Home Mission Board and inducing a spirit of united work among the women of all churches."

Given the women's rich history of supporting home missions work, it came as no surprise that immediately following the formal organization of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in Richmond, Va., in May 1888, home missions needs were brought to the members' attention.

I.T. Tichenor, president of the Home Mission Board, approached Annie Armstrong, the newly elected national WMU executive, to ask if WMU would help raise money for a much-needed church building in Havana, Cuba. The women agreed to help and distributed cards to collect coins to buy bricks for the building.

The next call for help from the Home Mission Board struck at the heart of what these missions-minded women were about — missionaries. The Home Mission Board, sinking deeper and deeper into debt, would soon run out of money to pay the salaries of the 400 missionaries it supported. Tichenor again approached the women, asking them to raise \$5,000 for this cause.

A "week of self-denial" was planned for the second week in March 1895 as a fund-raising effort.

Good news came in May 1895. As a result of the week of self-denial, more than \$5,000 was collected, the mission board was saved, and the missionaries could continue their work. Revivals often resulted in churches where extensive self-denial was practiced.

Annie Armstrong's ties to the offering were immortalized in 1934 when the offering became known as the "Annie W. Armstrong Offering for Home Missions."

Susan Todd writes for WMU, SBC.



Gallons for missions

Lawrence White, BSU director at Clarke College, displays gallon jug of coins donated by students, faculty and staff at Clarke College for summer missions. This promotional effort was begun in late August and has grown to a large number of coins to be given in summer of 1991, sponsored by CC Baptist Student Union.

Case of missing bookmarks

By S. M. Henriques Jr.

"... whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27b).

In the late 1960s Spencer Silver, a chemist with 3M, was experimenting with a new kind of pressure-sensitive adhesive. He was looking for a stronger substance than had been previously available, when he stumbled across a material that was not "aggressively" adhesive. It would cause one object to stick to another, but would not bind them together.



Henriques

When Silver presented his idea to others at 3M, they told him they were looking for a better adhesive, not a worse one. Silver didn't have a clue as to how his new, weaker adhesive could be used. For the next six years Silver stood firm, and visited every division in 3M, hoping someone might be able to think up an application. Most people said, "What can you do with an adhesive that doesn't hold?" It was a sticky question.

One Sunday in 1974, chemical engineer Arthur Fry was singing in his church choir. The slips of paper he used to mark various places in his hymnal would nearly always fall out, and he would lose his place. So Fry thought to himself, "If I had a little adhesive on these bookmarks..." Suddenly, Fry realized that the best way to use Spencer Silver's adhesive was between two pieces of paper!

Mechanical engineers, however, told Fry that it would be impossible to apply the adhesive to paper in a uniform manner. Fry stood firm, though, and in his basement put together a small machine to do what others said was impossible. When employees at 3M started using the little pieces of sticky paper, they immediately became "attached" to them.

Fry's invention did not catch on in the business world until a couple of corporate executives visited in the business district of Richmond, Va., handed out the little slips of sticky paper, and said, "Here, try this." They knew the paper had to be used to be appreciated. They firmly stood with Spencer Silver and Arthur Fry until the idea stuck, in a manner of speaking. We make ample use of "Post-It Notes" today because somebody believed in the basic concept enough to stand firmly until others believed in them, too.

Paul believed so strongly in the lifestyle of Christ that he stood firm in encouraging others to live for him as well. When he wrote to the Philippians, he encouraged them to clear the way for spiritual growth, but he knew that would be futile unless they stood firmly in Christ. In 1:27, Paul used a military word which means "to defend a key position." He pointed out certain key positions in life which they needed to defend to maintain the level of spirituality they had reached.

One key position, which Paul addressed in Philippians 2:19-30, was faithfulness to Christ. Two ordinary men served as examples of such commitment. Timothy had a genuine interest in other people, and in the things of Christ. He had settled the question of who was going to be Lord of his life. Epaphroditus demonstrated his faithfulness to Christ by the way he served, even to the point of nearly losing his life.

Silver and Fry were faithful to the idea behind the Post-It Notes we use so frequently today, Timothy and Epaphroditus were faithful to Christ, and they proved their commitment by standing firmly in him. It certainly should not be less evident among us that we are firmly faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ.

S. M. Henriques Jr. is pastor, Hillcrest Church, Jackson.

BSSB releases undated unit on evangelism by Jerry Vines

NASHVILLE — Former Southern Baptist Convention President Jerry Vines focused on personal evangelism in a 13-week undated Bible student unit, "Witnesses Alive," available in April from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

The Sunday School lessons designed to provide practical help for adults in witnessing are "Bible-centered, inspirational, readable, and warm," said Tom Hudson, manager of the Convention Uniform/Bible Book Series curriculum section in the Sunday School division.

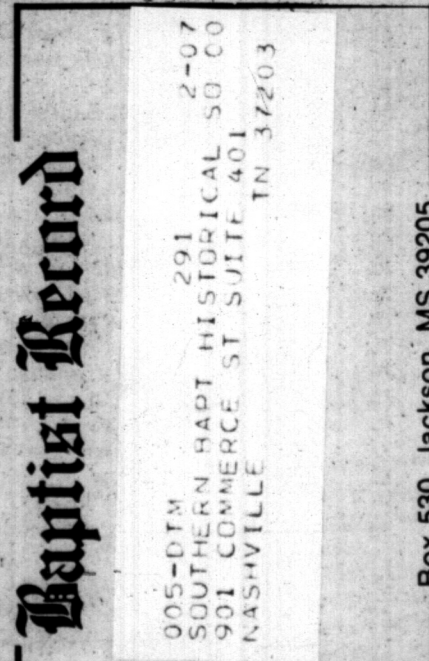
Vines, co-pastor of First Church of Jacksonville, Fla., centered on the "how-tos" of evangelism, teaching adults ways to invite friends to church, share their testimony, use a gospel booklet to share the plan of salvation, and mark a New Testament to lead a person to Christ, said Hudson.

He said the unit fits into the board's commitment to providing an added emphasis on evangelism through the Sunday School.

Vines provided the material, originally produced for use in his church, at no cost to the board.

Member's and teacher's editions are available through the undated church literature order form or by

calling the board's toll-free order number, 1/800-458-BSSB.



Baptist Record

February 7, 1991